ダンジョンに出会いを求めるのは間違っているだろうか2

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Synopsis

"First time meeting you, white hair onii-san"

The one who talked to Bell was a self-proclaimed <Supporter> girl, Lili. Although the girl that pulled him around and formed a team with Bell was suspicious, but the two of them still successfully raided the Dungeon. And was temporarily a companion.

On the other side, the <Soma's Familia> that Lili belonged to continued to have negative rumors. Behind this, it could even steal away people's hearts.

<Wine of God>'s existence——?

"Kami-sama, I……"

"It does not matter, Bell-kun's eyesight of looking at the opposite sex is genuine. Just like the same as God (me), it must be like that"

This is the boy's journey that the Goddess records.

——<The Familia's Myth>——

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ダンジョンに出会いを求めるのは間違っているだろうか2

「初めまして、白髪のお兄さん」

ベルに声をかけてきたのは、自ら〈サポーター〉を名乗る少女・リリだった。半ば強引にペアを組むことになった少女を不審に思いながらも、順調にダンジョンを攻略していく二人。束の間の仲間（パーティー）。

一方で、リリが所属する【ソーマ・ファミリア】には悪い噂が絶えない。その先には、人の心までも奪うとされる《神酒（ソーマ）》の存在が――？

「神様、僕は……」

「大丈夫、ベル君の異性（ひと）を見る目は確かなのさ。神（ボク）のように、きっとね」

これは、少年が歩み、女神が記す、――【眷族（ファミリア）の物語（ストーリー）】――

ダンジョンに出会いを求めるのは間違っているだろうか 2

大森藤ノ
イラスト ヤスダスズヒト

ダンジョンに出会いを求めるのは間違っている(?)

PROLOGUE – RIDICULE FROM THE WEAK
CHAPTER 1 – AFTER MEETING, A SUPPORTER
CHAPTER 2 – SUPPORTER'S CIRCUMSTANCES
INTERLUDE – ALAS! GODDESS-SAMA
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ダンジョンに出会いを求めるのは間違っているだろうか

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Dungeon ni Deai wo Motomeru no wa Machiagetteiru Darou ka

Volume 2

Written by:

Omori Fujino

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Yasuda Suzuhito

Prologue: Ridicule From the Weak

Supporter, a non-combatant used in exploration of the dungeon.

It is mainly responsible for the recovery of Magic Stones and Loot Drop Rewards, and safely transporting it back onto ground level.

In order to not give any additional burdens to comrades fighting against monsters in the front lines, they are charged with all the tasks regarding about support.

In short, Supporters are the people that carry the luggage.

“Hey, WHAT ARE YOU DOING! Hurry up!”

Today, I was scolded again.

Carrying a huge amount of luggage that seemed to be ready to burst out. Against a slightly slower pace, a male adventurer gave off a scold filled with contempt.

In the dungeon, only people, with a sufficiently bright light, will not feel bad for themselves.

The voice, that did not attempt to hide the contempt, echoed sharply.

“You can’t even carry some luggage correctly, how useless!”

These ridicule phrases against the people who carry the luggage, to now, I’ve heard enough of it that he was talking my ears off. It really was an unchanging complaint.

These arrogant words were also sometimes changed into imperious violence. At least to them, who always stay on the top floors, they could not feel the concerns of the people from the lower floors.

Adventurers will never take into consideration of the Supporters.

Moreover, professional Supporters could only become the target of ridicule.

No matter where or when, people have always treated the weak cruelly.

Money, Pride, Hope. They have all been taken away by them.

From the Lower Floors, there was this saying that I've heard before.

It is said that, without a good Supporter, Adventurers cannot show their true value.

It is said that, because of the efforts of the Supporters, Adventurers are able to go through the dungeons.

It is said that, they are the Unsung Heroes.

It was a saying that was worded beautifully, and I nodded as if I understood it.

There was indeed truth along those words. There must be some truths.

Supporters are tasked with reducing the burden for the Adventurers. This was indisputable.

"You don't even do your work correctly and you even get into our way. There is no reward for you!"

But, to these adventurers who know nothing, the amount of burden reduced was questionable.

In the end, where is a commendable Adventurer who's able to realize the importance of a Supporter.

Where is such a person, who would not fling out hard words like the one in front of me to a Supporter, which is one of the specialized careers. Or rather do they exist or not.

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"Listen up, at least when we are surrounded by monsters, go work——

Useless fellow.”

Looking at the adventurer who was saying this, I couldn’t help but laugh.

So that was it, that was it.

Really, they are a group of people who do not expect anything, so they will not be disappointed.

Adventurers are such things.

1章
デートのちサポーター

Chapter 1: After Meeting, A Supporter

Jiri, Jiri, the sound of scraping the soil was heard everywhere.

The brilliant lights from the ceiling illuminated the a square area that was surrounded by light green walls. This was known as a ＜Room＞. It is a cubic space inside the dungeon.

Inside this place, I held my ＜Goddess's Dagger＞ in a reversed grip and headed towards that monster.

Four legs, two thin and sharp forearm, plus two huge eyeballs. Its entire body was covered with a blood-red color. It cannot be helped that this figure reminds others of ants.

However, what is different when compared to normal ants is that its body is roughly the same size as me. Also it used its thin waist as support when it lifted its upper body and straightened its back.

＜Killer Ant＞.

A Monster that appears after entering the 7th floor. Together with the 6th Floor's ＜War Shadow＞, these two are usually known by Adventurers as the ＜Rookie Killer＞.

The name originates from the hard shell that wrapped around its whole body, as well as its high attack power that leaves the Goblins and other Low-Level monsters in the dust. The skin that was covering the body was as solid as a armor. You can only constantly dodge against the the Killer Ant's sporadic attack, otherwise it really isn't a joke if you were directly hit by its shelled attack.

The arm in front had four claws. The sheen from the faint reflection of the twisting suddenly breaking out caused people to dread it.

Constant attacks, until the other's defense completely shattered, then taking the opportunity to use these sharp claws to land fatal injuries. This is the fixed attack pattern of the Killer Ants.

Those Adventurers accustomed with the enemies up to the 5th floor

have mostly become their prey, because it was different than the monsters that could be easily dealt with up till now.

“*Gigiiii*”

KichiKichiKichiiii, the Killer Ant moved its mouth and issued of a sharp sound of grinding its teeth.

Actually this monster is currently calling for its companions. Although, it doesn’t actually make a noise, it seems that it will secrete a hormone that we don’t know whenever it is in danger.

This tactic matches very well with its hard shell. Although to us Adventurers, it is the worst.

No matter what, to defeat it, you must rely on a swift attack. Of course, killing it in one attack and causing it to stop breathing is the best.

Separated by a few steps away, the Killer Ant and I stared at each other.

“——Fuuuuu”

The one that moved first was me. No matter what, counterattacking and attack second did not fit my personality.

So my side was the one that provoked the battle. I issued a cry and rushed and swung my right arm towards the Killer Ant.

The enemy’s claw depicted a white arc in the air. It was approaching from the left side of my sight——But it was cut off.

My side was faster. With an attack speed that was superior to the Killer Ant, I cut the swinging claw off from the forearm.

“*Giii*!?”

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I rotated around to the right side of the Killer Ant, which had lost its weapon.

While listening to its painful cries, I held the ＜Goddess’s Dagger＞ in order to prepare for the next instant.

If I wanted to successfully defeat the Killer Ant, I must aim for the gap between the hard shells. It was the normal method to attack the soft flesh inside the gap.

Although to a rookie adventurer, aiming for the tiny gap between the shell was difficult, at least in theory it was.

However, I easily ignored this point.

Aiming at the head of the Killer Ant, that lost its arm, and revealed a defenseless upper body, the black blade swept through like the word "—".

"____"

I felt that the dagger's blade pierce through the hard shell that protected its head.

At first, there was only the feeling. Then as the blade did not meet any resistance and continued to enter, I naturally swung my arm as usual.

Sannnnn, accompanied by a nice sound,the dagger slid through the Killer Ant's head and the head flew up into the air. Purple fluid oozed up from the sliced off neck. The Monster's head that was spinning in the air, carried a expression as if it did not know what happened as it headed towards the ground.

Following it, the body that seemed to notice that it lost its head, also fell to the ground.

"……Ah, not bad!"

While swing the dagger and getting rid of the sticky fluid on top of it, I looked at the <Goddess's Dagger>

It feels like it was attracted to my hand. As if I had always been using it, it was already familiar with my hand.

There was nothing to say much about the power. After all, it sliced through the Killer Ant's hard shell like it was butter.

Amazing, this is a Hephaestus Familia weapon!!

An item that Kami-sama gave me specifically.

“～♪”

While revealing an expression of a child receiving a new toy, I began to recover the Magic Stone of the monsters I killed.

In reality, there isn’t much difference compared to the present me and my childhood days. During all my previous birthdays, I would get a picture book about Heroes. It feels like the current situation was the same as at that time. I remember that, at that time, I would read the book very precariously. In the beginning, I did not even dare to touch it, because I was afraid that it would get dirty.

But now when I was using this dagger, I would not be afraid and my heart constantly had these thoughts.

(Thank you, Kami-sama……)

In my mind, I recalled the face of Kami-sama, who had recently become busy, and I smiled cheerfully and thankfully.

I will definitely become stronger. In order to become a suitable owner for this weapon, and also to not disappoint Kami-sama’s expectations.

I placed the dagger back into its sheath that was hanging on my waist, and I began to continue my exploration of the 7th floor.

× × ×

“You really are courageous huh～?”

“U…Uwahhhh!?”

Bell could not help but let out a scream. In contrast to Eina’s

unsuspecting low voice, rage can be felt constantly leaking out from her, who was now frowning in front of him.

Bell, who finished today’s 7th floor exploration, merrily headed back to the guild headquarters while admiring the very existence of the dagger he obtained from Hestia. After exchanging his battle rewards into gold, he went off to see his adviser 16

Eina and also triumphantly give off his recent report——That the floor he reached had increased to the 7th floor. The instant he mentioned this, Bell felt that he invited his end.

“I HAVE SAID TO YOU! WHY DO YOU STILL DO NOT UNDERSTAND

MY WORDS!! GOING BEYOND 5th WAS ENOUGH, BUT YOU

ACTUALLY RAN OFF TO THE 7th FLOOR!? EVEN IF YOU’RE AN

IDIOT, THERE MUST BE A LIMIT!”

“Soooorrrrryyyyy!?”

Thunk! Eina slammed her hands onto the table in front. Her jade colored eyes stared at him and Bell was forced to enter a state where he was being stared at like a frog.

The reason behind Eina’s anger was just as she had said, that Bell did not care about his growth and constantly increased his floor levels. According to her, this was the act of Adventurers going on an <Adventure>, she was currently blaming him about this point.

“A week ago, who was the person who nearly died against a Minotaur!?”

“I…It is me!?”

“Then why do you still have this behavior of continuing to go down floors! You have already fell once, why do you still not remember, Bell-kun!”

“S…Sorry…….!” Bell said this while holding back his tears. From Eina’s

perspective, it was a caring reprimand. Because she did not want Bell to die, so she could only turn into a demon and shout at him.

As a rookie adventurer with half a month of progress, it was basically suicide to enter the floors below the 5th floor.

Starting from the 5th floor, the dungeon will change overall. The degree of difficulty will also increase. Using Bell entering the 7th floor as an example, the moment the Killer Ant calls his companions, it represents the end. It is different than the situation of meeting a group of Kobolds. A person would be completely eaten by that swarm of ants.

“Your sense of danger is not enough! Absolutely not enough! Today you will fix your happy attitude and deeply engrave the terror of the dungeon inside your head!”

Huh, Bell issued off an unpromising sound.

After all, within this month, Eina’s Spartan guidance could have been said to have already been engraved on every inch of his skin.

The information that she taught was undoubtedly useful. But towards her special guidance, saying “Yes, please give it to me” and sincerely embracing it was another story. Bell panicked and began to make excuses.

“P…Please wait a minute!? About that, I, from that time have also grown a lot Eina-san!?”

“Your ability is obviously still at H, what kind of growth are you talking about……!”

“R…Really! My ＜Status＞, a few abilities inside have already gone over E!?”

“……E?”

Eina suddenly stopped her actions. Her eyes froze in a stiff manner.

She could not understand what Bell had just suddenly said. After understanding it, her face quickly showed disbelief.

“E…Even if you say such a lie, how could you possible trick……”

“It’s true, It’s true! I don’t know if it was because of my recent good fortune or what, anyways, my proficiency had increased immensely!”

“……Really?”

Yes yes yes, seeing Bell nod his head strongly, Eina revealed a puzzled look.

Although her time of becoming Bell’s adviser was still short, but she could still clearly distinguish, to a certain extent, if he was lying or not.

According to Eina’s observation, Bell just now did not lie.

“……Is it really an E?”

“Y…Yes.”

After a while, Eina reached out a hand towards Bell.

The other hand was analyzing by counting the letters downwards 6 times: S, A, B, C, D, E…… At the same time, she leaked out a “Wuahhhh” sound. She tried again.

S, A, B, C, D, E…… 6 times. The result did not change.

Eina was confused. Bell was not lying. Although he wasn’t lying, but his ability suddenly raising to E was like a joke. It was impossible to believe it.

Eina’s disbelief about his abilities being E was not groundless. With a time span of only two weeks, the proper ability range that an Adventurer will reach was not deeply related to whether if that person was powerful or not. And generally most Adventurers will only be at H. Even then, this was also limited to the people who had good skills.

If it was G, then they have been overdoing it. And if it reached above F……No matter what, that was too fast.

If it was a person who accumulated lots of fighting experience before becoming an adventurer, then Eina may be persuaded, but the person in front of her was originally a farmer. But Bell was not lying

“Wuahhhhh”, Eina, who continued to have a tangled expression. She was

thinking deeply while holding her fingers onto her chin.

Bell, who was being stared at on the other side, also did not say a word. It was as if they were uncomfortably in a cold war.

“……About this, Bell-kun”

“Y…Yes?”

“The <Status> engraved on your back, can you show it to me?”

“……EH!?”

Eina, with a serious expression, said this. Bell could not help but raise his voice.

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“Ah, it isn’t that I don’t believe in you? Only that……”

Eina hurriedly waved her hands to shake off the misunderstanding.

Yes, only that……Bell’s Goddess Hestia probably wouldn’t have given him

misleading information on her own initiative……She thought that.

Could it be that, there was any mistakes when conveying the information.

Even if she continues to think about it, her suspicions will not disappear. After all, this sign, E, absolutely defies common knowledge for Eina.

Because of this, if there is no evidence about this status, she could not believe in Bell’s words.

“B…But, Adventurer’s <Status> absolutely must not be revealed, isn’t it……”

The guild, which places the Adventurers under their jurisdiction, also developed laws about the leakage of personal information. Adventurers have an obligations to report their Lv and rankings since it acts as an indicator to judge their strength. But besides that, there were no other requirements.

Among this, there are people who have rare <Skills> and Special <Magic>.

Because of the special characteristics of a <Familia>, today’s friend could easily become tomorrow’s enemy. It was natural to not reveal your own weaknesses and block off enemy intelligence information.

“I will make a promise with you. From now on, I will not mention it to

anyone what I see. If Bell-kun's <Status> was officially leaked, I will also take responsibility. I swear to you that I'll absolutely obey this."

"O…Obey…… A…Anyways, Eina-san can also read <Sacred Text>?"

"Yes, although only a little. The abilities within <Status> should still be capable.

Luckily, Eina also graduated from the school district. She was a Scholar that specialized in comprehensive Theology.

If it was the simple <Sacred Text>, she will still be able to read it.

"If I can't use these pair of eyes to confirm it, I, no matter how long, will not allow Bell-kun to enter below the 5th floor"

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"T…This really is…Please spare me……"

"I will not look at Magic and the Skill windows, okay? Please!"

"I still have not discovered any Skills or Magic, so even if you see it, it is fine……I understand"

Towards Eina, who clapped her hands together and deeply bowed, Bell conceded.

Considering she had taken care of him in various cases, he placed absolute trust in her to the same degree as Hestia. Bell did not doubt Eina's words.

"About this, then……Do I begin to strip?"

"Having your face become red just because of such a thing, you should not have to confirm it again! You're also making me feel embarrassed!"

Both sides stood up with flushed faces, and headed towards the corner of a room with sufficient space. Bell held back his embarrassment and quickly changed into his half-naked state.

In that short amount of time, Eina stared at the black <Status> engraved on his back. But what first entered her eyes was a surprisingly well-trained body, and she quickly coughed a few times to

fix her arrayed head.

Her pointy ears also became red, and she began to closely interpret the <Sacred Text>.

Bell Cranel

Lv. 1

Strength: **E 403**

Endurance: **H 199**

Dexterity: **E 412**

Agility: **D 521**

Magic: **I 0**

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(It can't be……)

Although she had already accepted that there was a 50% chance that it was true, she was still stunned when this was suddenly shown to her.

Aside from <Magic>, according to these abilities, it was more than enough to singly fight against the 7th floor Monsters. Eina emphasizes defense, and although <Endurance> was slightly lower, this clear lower gap for <Endurance> wasn't a surprise because of Bell's fighting method. After all, Bell's main attacking method was to dodge and create confusion, and then find an opportunity to strike once and retreat.

However, seeing that <Agility> had even entered D, she felt like she was about to erupt with shock.

(Unbelievable……)

Eina's throat issued a soundless groan. Instantly, it felt that her own common sense inside her body has broken. Then gradually, a sudden chill blew through her back.

Because of her occupation and she knew in depth about the various information concerning the Adventurers entering the dungeon. Eina finally understood how incredible that the circumstances in front of her was.

Bell's <Growth>, no matter what, it was simply too fast.

——Skill?

This possibility instantly flashed through her mind.

She actually found an adventurer with such an irregular and destructive growth ability. If it was from a skill, Eina almost regretted while thinking about it……But, it was only a bit, if she could confirm it……

(……If it was only a glance)

After recovering, her sight had already been stolen by the <Sacred Text> on the side of the center of the back.

In front was the <Magic> and <Skill> window.

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Since it had come to this, it was almost impossible to suppressed her surging impulse. Not only Eina, if there was a treasure chest with the lid opened, everyone will naturally want to take a peek. This was considered human nature.

Due to her curiosity, Eina looked at the Magic and Skill window.

(…Ah, no)

She can't read it.

She could only see a dense arrangement of <Sacred Text>, Eina could not read the contents of the Magic and Skill window.

——Actually, this was something that Hestia, who was like a doting parent, did just in case. She played a trick in the area where it would not affect Bell's abilities, and added protection to the <Status>. Eina had not completely grasp the <Sacred Text>'s system and essence. It was too difficult for her to understand these twisted, complex and strange markings that was actually Hestia's own handwriting, and

could be said that it was her unique method of writing.

She walked around Bell in turns, this time it was Hestia's victory.

"About this, Eina-san……you're not finished yet?"

"Ah……I…It's already okay!"

Listening to Bell's shy voice, Eina's ears also beeped once, and she recovered. She was also smiling shyly and turned her gaze up from the ＜Status＞. She looked at Bell, who was quickly wearing his clothes, and issued an apology inside her heart.

She did not expect it to be true, Eina groaned.

Looking at his status, she couldn't stop Bell from enter the 7th floor. Although it was not absolute, this level for an Adventurer should have no

trouble going alone as long as they are prepared.

——Even so, it also generated brand new problems.

"……"

"W…What is it?"

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Examining carefully from head to toe of Bell, who had just finished wearing his clothes, Eina impolitely glued her eyes and stared at him. Bell could not help but raise his voice.

Actually, Eina did not stare at Bell's body as if she wanted to lick his entire body.

She was not even staring at his body, but rather his equipment…… those poor, cheap, armor.

"Bell-kun"

"Ah, yes?"

"Tomorrow, are you free?"

“……Huh?”

× × ×

Then after a day.

I headed to the northern area of Orario’s plaza that was constructed in a semicircular shape facing the Main Street. And stood there by myself.

In order to meet with Eina-san.

Yes, meet……

(C…Could this be a ……date?)

Even though he knew something like that couldn’t happen, he couldn’t help but think about it.

Yesterday, Eina-san gave an invitation of buying my armor together.

She seems to think that my situation of raiding the dungeon does not match my equipment, which is that my current armor is too unreliable. That person really likes to help others, and this time she specifically came here for me.

Yes, that must be it. There is no other meaning. It is only the intimate kindness from a caring person……

(……Although saying this, but to the bystanders, it may also……)

Based on the form, it may seem to match.

Just like that the two of them had made an appointment to meet together alone in front of the plaza’s statue at 10 am.

Uwaaaa! Uwaaaa!

“Hey~, B~ell~kun~!”

“!”

Then the agreed upon time finally came.

The owner of the cute voice that was issued from time to time, her figure gradually became bigger in my field of vision.

“Good morning, you’re really early. What now, are you really looking forward to buy new armor?”

“Huh, that’s not it, I’m just……!”

——Towards being alone together with Eina-san, this matter somehow made me feel restless.

This point cannot be clearly mentioned to her. This type of me, really is still spineless.

I, with an expression of not being able to calm down, looked left and right.

“Mmm, actually I was also looking forward to it. Although it is only to buy things together with Bell-kun, but somehow I felt very excited”

Eina-san clothes are different than what she normally wears. Normally, she would always wear the guild uniform. However, today she was wearing a cute, white blouse with laces and a miniskirt. It was a kind of light and lively feeling. She also removed the glasses she usually wear for her eyes.

Maybe the problem was because I was used to seeing her figure in a guild uniform, but now Eina-san felt like she suddenly had an adult-like atmosphere. How could I say it——It was very bright.

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Yes, very cute.

I excitedly stared at Eina-san and was captivated.

“We are going to buy equipment, this kind of unromantic stuff, later, but you are actually so excited now, is it me that feels a bit strange?”

“H…How could it be!”

Seeing me denying it in a panic, Eina-san smiled. Uwahhhh, Uwahhhh……

Even among the numerous guild employees, Eina-san’s popularity

amongst the Adventurers was also very high.

Half-elf, this creature, are they all as cute as Eina-san……

“Cough, cough. Do you have anything you want to say, Bell-kun?”

“Huh, I…Is there anything?”

She looked down at me from above with a mischievous eyes that looks like they like to play pranks on children.

Uwahhh, Uwaaaa

“……Ummm, well, you really …… look much younger than usual”

“Hey! I’m only 19 years old!”

“Ahhhhhh, ouchhhhhhhhhhhhhhhh!?”

Eina used her slender white arms to mercilessly clasp down on my neck.

Just like that, I was being hugged by her tightly from the side…….squeezeeeed.

my cheeks were headed towards Eina-san’s chest……

“Quickly apologize to me!”

“N…no, please forgive meeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeee!?”

Eina-san made a strange noise that continued to irritate my ears. I could not help but cry out.

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× × ×

“It’s been a really long time since I went shopping with others”

“Ah, really? I would have thought that Eina-san was quite popular…… Especially among the males.”

“Fufu, you’re such a sweet talker, Bell-kun. But it’s the truth. After all, ever since I entered the guild, I’ve always been stuck working”

Today was a bright and clear sunny day.

It was the perfect day to have a date……Although I was not prepared to say it. But really, the blue skies was almost dazzling clear. I followed Eina-san from the North Main Street path and headed to the south. We were bathed by the breezes as we walked, and I felt more relaxed physically and mentally.

As we passed through the street, we had just caught the liveliest time period. It was filled with people everywhere. The shops, no matter how big or small, had employees trying hard to attract the crowd. Around us, it sounded like the dwarves were in high spirits.

Occasionally, some shop employees would try to talk with Eina-san

(while I was treated as a servant), but she would just wave graciously to counter it.

The beastman shop employee that talked with her would have a face filled with happiness and entered a state where he felt like his entire body had lost its strength.

“About this, where are we going today? If we continue to go down this path, we will reach the dungeon.”

“We are about to arrive, so you can look forward to it—— If I say this, does it feel that I’m being mean? Ah, forget it, I’ll tell you”

From the center of the city of Orario, the 8 paths that headed in 8 directions were known as the Main District’s Main Streets. They were: North, North-East, East, South-East, South, South-West, West, and North-West. And each direction has one oath. Overlooking the roads from the sky, it will look like four thick lines gathering at the city’s center and then it would split into its respective direction.

Each Main Street intersects at the center area of the city, and the center area is right above the dungeon.

The central square that intersects the Main Streets was just in front. I looked at the overwhelming presence of the skyscraper facility while I quietly waited for Eina-san to reply.

“The place we are heading to…….is actually the dungeon.”

“E…Ehhhhh!?”

“To be more precise, it is the skyscraper above the dungeon.”

＜Babel＞ is a high-rise tower that seems to act as a cover for the dungeon. It is the skyscraper facility in front of my eyes.

Everyone knew that it’s role wasn’t to just cover the dungeon, but also Babel’s task was to observe and manage the dungeon.

This guild-owned facility was one of the most familiar building to the Adventurers.

“Inside Babel……Doesn’t it only have Adventurer’s Public Facilities such as showers?”

“You really don’t know anything……Forget it, you’ve only been an Adventurer for less than a month. This is also something that can’t be helped, right? Well, today, I’ll teach some useful information to you, okay?”

——I can’t help but remember her Spartan-like methods to

instill Dungeon knowledge into me from before. To be honest, looking at Eina-san’s proud expression, I felt afraid from the bottom of my heart.

I prayed that it would not develop into the situation back then, and I began to concentrate on her teachings.

“First of all, the guild-owned Babel, is just like what Bell-kun just said. It has the responsibility to provide Adventurers with public facilities. Aside from that, there is also a simple canteen, treatment facility and even a gold exchange, you know?”

“Ah, isn’t it only for guild branches to have one?”

“Yes, Babel also has one. But because there are only a few appraisers, you will probably wait a long time in line if you head there……Now, I’ll continue okay? Where we’re headed to today is another one of it’s responsibilities. Babel also rents out spaces, and many businessmen

would rent these areas to sell their goods.”

I can understand her intentions slightly. In other words, we’re heading to Babel in order to go to the shops that sell weapons and armors.

“Because it was constructed directly above the dungeon, these shops are all specialized for Adventurers. Most of them are business-type <Familia>.

<Hephaestus Familia> should be the representative for shop openings in Babel.

You’ve at least heard of the name right?”

“Y…Yes.”

I could not help feeling a bit scared. I involuntary confirmed that the dagger was hanging from my waist.

“Bell-kun, how much do you know about the <Hephaestus Familia>?”

“Ah, it is a popular <Familia> that sells equipment. Their equipment qualities are extremely high. As long as you’re an adventurer, you will want one…but I only know that much……”

“Yes, that’s correct. Incidentally, where we are heading to today is probably the leased out area of the <Hephaestus Familia>

“Yes…E…Ehhhhhhhh~~~~~~~~~~”

Looking at me, who issued the most tragic cry today, Eina-san gave off a smile that seemed to represent her mischievous prank had succeeded.

How did something like this happen? Just when I wanted to inquire further, she seemed to dodge it like a capricious elf, and then swiftly headed to the wide area.

“W…We’re here……”

Central Plaza.

The white walls of the huge tower had a circular arrangement of houses that surrounded Babel. One can see the green plants and the various forms of fountains everywhere. There was absolutely no problems with it being called a park.

While they were heading here, there were many residents in the streets that were unrelated to the dungeon mixed with the Adventurers. But in this Central Plaza, almost all of them are Adventurers carrying large-sized swords, spears and other weaponry. The most frightening thing is that, even though there was a dazzling amount of people, this place did not give off a crowded feeling.

“Eina-san, what on earth is happening!? I can’t buy things from the <Hephaestus Familia>. That’s only something for the rich!”

“We～ll～ Just look forward to it until then”

“Please don’t joke around. I’ve been sweating like mad now!?”

Even if Eina-san saw the tearful expression of mine, she still had a expression as if she didn’t care. Her brisk pace shows no signs of slowing down.

Instead, she used her slender fingers to hold tightly to my feeble and falling hands.

“Okay, let’s go! If you’re a man, then don’t squirm around here trying to stop!”

Instantly, my mind became blank. Then my face slowly turned red. The only thing I could do was let Eina-san pull me forward.

Those soft hands, compared to my stiff hands that were changed due to farm work I did since I was small, was warm and gave off a slightly itchy feeling. My mind was also groggy and I entered a state where I couldn’t think.

However, after getting mixed in the crowd, the active male Adventurers around me were all giving off a < **I’ll Kill You**> gaze towards me.

This time, my face turned to blue, but thanks to that, it also helped me calm down.

“E…Eina-san, y…your hand, can you please let go? Pppppp… Please……!?”

Since we're heading to the top-class Blacksmith <Familia> shops in Orario, I'll further explain about those Blacksmiths. Bell-kun, do you know about <Development Ability>?

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Towards me, who was a male, but still squirmed around telling her to stop, she magnificently ignored me. Please don't be like that, after all, I'll die.

I determinedly gave up, and carried the determination of being killed, trembled and tried to shrink my body.

"Errrr, I don't know……"

"<Development Ability> is an ability that randomly appears after the <Status> levels up. These abilities are more specialized than the <Basic Abilities>."

<Development Ability> is similar to leveling up, it is a privilege gained from <Level Up>, Eina concluded.

"When the time comes, it will be based automatically on the individual's <Experience Points> to decide which abilities to enhance. Among these abilities, there also exist a <Blacksmith> ability"

<Blacksmith> from <Development Ability> huh……No matter what abilities there are, it was still the first time I've heard about it.

According to Eina, the <Blacksmith> ability is necessary for the current blacksmith generation. Most of the blacksmiths in <Hephaestus Familia> all have this ability.

In other words, most of the members are Level 2 or above…… According to

this, we also know that their faction's fighting power should also be quite high.

"Of course, the Blacksmith career has existed for a long time. Although the ancient works have all become antiques, there are still some that are being used today. The current generation……those with the <Blacksmith> ability, can add attributes to weapons since they

have the power of the <Grace> given by the gods.”

“Attributes……”

“Which is also a special ability. As long as they wish to,

they can place a skill from the Adventurer’s Status into the weapon as well. Just like an unbreakable blade. A normal Blacksmith couldn’t create such a weapon.”

Indeed, I unconsciously nodded.

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“Among them, there are also weapons that can create phenomenons like

magic. For example, they can swing a weapon down and flames gushes out.”

“EH!?”

“This is also basic knowledge……Anyways, weapons that can evoke a similar effects to magic are called <Magic Sword>. There are only a handful of Blacksmiths that can create Magic Swords.”

I couldn’t help but swallow. Although Eina-san was speaking casually, what she said also meant that anyone who gets a <Magic Sword> will have the one power that can defeat hundreds of veteran warriors ——which is Magic.

“However, Magic Swords are consumable items, and they have the characteristic of breaking apart once it reaches its limits. Although it doesn’t need

chants and can directly activate, it’s power is still notch below to Magic.”

It really is a costly weapon that is thrown away after being used, Eina-san gave off a wry smile.

From her expression, I could tell that there are very few people that uses Magic Sword. Although it is popular, it has a disadvantage of being broken. To an Adventurer, who wants stability in order to fight in an ever-changing dungeon, a weapon that can break will not be

easily accepted.

No matter what, it is possible to encounter accidents anywhere and at any time.

“About that, Eina-san. Aside from ＜Blacksmith＞ in Development Abilities, what else is there?”

I raised the issue that is to the utmost concern to the Adventurers.

I might have the opportunity to use this knowledge eventually, no, I absolutely will use it.

“Ah～, to Adventurers, the typical abilities are ＜Abnormal Resistance＞ and ＜Magic＞. Aside from those, ＜Mystery＞ is also considered as one.”

“＜Mystery＞?”

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“Yes. Speaking of this, it is to activate Gods’ 18 ＜Miracles＞. This ability is also known as ＜God’s Technique＞. Do you know the story of the philosopher’s stone, Bell-kun?”

Of course, I don’t know. I shook my head.

“It seems to be a very old story. A member of a certain faction with this ＜Mystery＞ ability……Sage, successfully created this item called a ＜Philosopher’s Stone＞. It’s effect is to directly give eternal life.”

“……How should I say, the beginning is really old-fashioned.”

“Fufu, indeed. But the main point of this story is at the end……The Sage joyfully reported to his own God about creating the Philosopher’s Stone…….And brought the stone to the God. But in front of the Sage’s eyes, the god threw it to the floor and it shattered……. Causing the eternal life to”

“……”

“The god used its finger to point at the empty shell of the Sage, who lost his soul, and that God seemed to laugh continuously.”

This was one of the worst ＜Myths＞ I have heard about the Gods.

By the way, the myths that I mentioned here, refers to my Kami-sama who would tell me about various stories about Heaven.

I, for the very first time, felt that I was lucky that my encounter with a God was Hestia……

“The philosopher’s stone seemed to be something that was created accidentally. If you wanted to create it again, it was impossible. After the Sage, no one appeared again who was able to utilize the <Mystery> ability to its maximum limit. The Philosopher’s Stone also gradually turned into an item of myth.”

“Maximum……? The Development Ability also have proficiencies just like the Basic Ability?”

“Unnn, it doesn’t have proficiencies with numbers like Basic Abilities. It only has letters and is divided into rack S to I. It is so extremely difficulty to get to the next rank, that it can’t even be compared to a Basic Ability.”

That must be an incredible ability……this was what I thought about what Eina-san told me.

After all, it was an area that I have no experience with, so I could only have such thoughts.

While we were talking, we had already reached the door in front of Babel.

Although I called it a door, it was more like a hole that pierced through the tower walls and hole occurred in multiple areas circling the tower. It was a design that allowed Adventurers to enter the inner part of the tower, no matter how many people or where they were coming from. Passing through the door, the white and light-blue colored lobby entered my eyes.

The entrance to the dungeon was underneath this place.

“After coming here……”

“Go up. After all, the vacant spaces that Babel provides starts at the 4th floor.”

Babel's 1st floor was only the entrance. Its public facilities begin at the 2nd floor.

On the 3rd floor, I explored using my upper body to discover the location of the gold exchange that was mentioned earlier. I attempted to find the stairs up, but was suddenly cut off as Eina-san grabbed onto my hand and pulled me to the center area of the floor.

We got on top of one of the several circular pedestals here. The wall was a translucent material that was like glass, and leaning on this wall resulted in an obvious feeling.

Just when I was wondering how Eina-san will operate the device on the

wall……The pedestal left the ground and began to float.

It gradually floated upwards, no it was rising up.

"!?"

"Ah, I also had that feeling when I first rode it"

Looks like this glass-like object was a elevator to move between floors…….It should be a product made from Magic Stone.

Attached to the base of the pedestal was a large number of <Magic Stone>.

The stones looked like they were transforming the Magic Power inside

into a Floating Power. I was shocked it could even do something like this. Then I was informed by Eina-san that these Magic Stones have to be replaced every once in a while. It looks like the Magic Stones are not almighty.

After a while, we reached the 4th floor of Babel.

"Although the shop that I fancy is on a higher floor, we may as well look at the others since it's rare for us to come here. Bell-kun, you also want to look around, right?"

After glancing around, there were shops that sell weapon and armor

everywhere. I also became somewhat excited and quickly nodded at Eina-san as she asked the question.

I looked at the sign on the billboard, <Ήφαιστος>……Could it be that from here to the end, every shops belongs to the <Hephaestus Familia>……?

“Ahah, from the 4th floor to the 8th floor, all of it was rented out by the <Hephaestus Familia>……”

……Isn’t this just like reserving the entire place. In the end, how amazing is the <Hephaestus Familia>

Incidentally, near where Kami-sama and I lived, there was also a branch on the North-West Main Street.

The price of the dagger that I had often looked through the window in front of the shop was …… 8 Million Varisu.

It was an amount that could purchase a few items from a respectable shop.

The store right next to me had a display window. I looked carefully at the price of the red sword in the center……

(30 Milllion Varisu!?)

Kuraaaaa, I staggered while placing my palm on my forehead. Eina-san must be looking at me with a wry smile.

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Today I brought the dagger that was created by Hephaestus. Kami-sama also said it was the only one in the world……In the end, how much did it cost?

“Welcome~! This customer, may I ask what you want to buy today?”

While I was staring at the goods in the display window, I was suddenly addressed by an employee with a bright, cheerful voice.

Although that girl was slightly short, but her looks were dignified. Her face had a well-trained and beautiful business smile. Her cute black twin tails would often shake from time to time, and she smiled at me.

Underneath the red apron, that looks like the uniform, she had a petite figure with mismatched boobs that constantly demonstrated its existence……

"……What are you doing, Kami-sama"

"……"

Kami-sama's smile stiffened.

So that was it. I was wondering what she was busy with. It looks like she ran off to this place to work……!

"Why are you here!? Are you working!? Didn't I cleary say that since the floors I can go to has increased, our Familia isn't that short of money anymore"

"Okay, Bell-kun, just forget about *everything* you saw today. Act like an adult and obediently go home……! You coming here is too early!"

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“Isn’t it too early for Kami-sama as well!? When you only get paid 30

Varisu an hour!?”

“I will not let you to mock those potato croquettes!”

“Okay, let’s go home together!? After all, Kami-sama is a God. I can’t let you abandon your dignity and get shamed! What if other people begin to mock us!?”

“No, leave me alone, leave me alone Bell-kun! Sometimes Gods also have things that they must do!”

“What exactly do you mean, that Kami-sama also have times when she has

something that they must do!? Please, listen to my words!”

I was using both my hands to grab onto her right wrist, but Kami-sama turned her face away from me with a solemn expression of trying to escape.

In the end, what on earth happened that made Kami-sama so stubborn……!

Using the corner of my eyes, I looked at Eina-san to confirm if she’s shocked by such a scene. However, it was not the time to worry about such things.

“Hey hey! Newcomer, don’t play around! Quickly, get back to work!!”

“Yes!?”

Pyu-nnn! Kama-sama seemed to have flew out from my grasp.

Watawata, she panicked and ran off into the store’s interior. The petite figure and the twintails behind her disappeared from the shop’s entrance.

“Kami-sama~……”

“……Same as usual, completely different than the other gods?”

Facing me, who issued a resigned sigh, Eina-san did not know whether to give out a dry laugh or not.

Then I remembered that I didn’t come alone today, so I cooled off slightly and forced myself to calm down.

……Currently, I should temporarily forget about Kami-sama……

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“Letting you see such an embarrassing scene, I’m really sorry……”

“No problem. Now then, shall we head up to the upper floors?”

I nodded while walking together with Eina-san, who had a wry smile. Our destination was Babel’s 8th floor.

This time, we also rode on the Magic Stone Elevator, and slowly rose to the upper floors.

“Okay, we’re here.”

“Can’t believe I really came……”

Opening the manual door of the elevator that stopped, I looked around. It was a similar view like the 4th floor.

Sword, Spear, Axe, Hammer, Dagger, Bow, Shield, Armor and other defensive equipment…….The specialized shops that sell all kinds of weaponry was spread out like tiles in the wide space of the floor. Also, I don’t know why, but the number of customers…… number of Adventurers was more than the 4th floor.

Thinking that all the people here must be first-class Adventurers, I suddenly retreated midway.

“Like the high-class brand <Hephaestus Familia>, I shouldn’t ruin them. Bell-kun must be thinking of such thoughts?”

To me, who was ill at ease, could not say anything right now. I could only admit it.

Eina-san saw my reaction and gave off a hearty smile.

“Actually there is no such thing. Forget it, it is best if you saw it instead! Follow me”

Eina-san took me and entered the shop with the most customers. It was a shop that sells spears.

Continuously moving into the interior of the shop, Eina-san stopped in

front of the spear case that was against the wall. The prestigious battle spears, with its spearhead pointing at the ceiling, was lined up one by one.

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Anyways, it must be terribly expensive. Thinking about this, I looked at the price……12000 Varisu.

“H…Huh……?”

If this was the price, then I might be able to afford it……

“Fufu, shocked right?”

“Y…Yes. But, why?”

I, who was stunned, inquired this to Eina-san who had a good mood.

“The difference between <Hephaestus Familia> and the other specialized Blacksmith <Familia> is that even their bottom ranked members have the opportunity to continue creating their works. And those creations are also placed inside the shop to sell”

“Ah……Is that alright? Comparing it with the top-class craftsmen, wouldn’t it be completely……”

“Of course, they will still separate those items from the skilled Blacksmith creations to sell. And those creations will have to first pass through a management team to make an accurate assessment of its value. Afterwards, it must be selected by an Adventurer where it can then be purchased. This way, the direct evaluation will be precious to the immature Blacksmith, even if the assessment has the utmost praise or the harshest assessment. To them, it is to propel and help motivate them to continue to create more excellent equipment.”

Although it was a little surprising, I quickly understood. Instead of locking the blacksmiths in a narrow workshop where they can only attempt to try and practice, why not allow the wide world to stimulate them. This way,

their experience could easily become the fuel for their growth.

“Doing it like this causes no harm to the shop. By creating this system, it lets Adventurers from the early floors to become customers.”

In the group of rookie Adventurers, there may be a top-class adventurer fledgling waiting to become more mature. And when they become more mature, they may become an honored customer that will purchase top-class equipment. So the key was to create a pyramid-like layers for customers, Eina-san said.

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Attract customers from the largest, bottom layer. From the middle layer, select a few customers and wait for these individuals to mature and become the upper layer.

This was the characteristics of the labyrinth city. On the whole, how much interest could an Adventurer produce, no one knows.

“The main point of this mechanism is to allow new Adventurers and Blacksmith form a new bond. During this period, they will continue to build and deepen their ties. It might be deep or shallow, but it does happen.”

What on earth does this mean? I used my eyes to inquire.

“The rookie Blacksmiths will engrave their own name onto their creations. And after the rookie Adventurers purchases their products, they will remember the name. If the two match well together, then they may even meet directly. Even if these Blacksmiths weren’t discovered a management team or the Blacksmiths were buried by the Blacksmith division, they may still be discovered by the wise eyes of the Adventurers. Although the two won’t match perfectly, only the Adventurers who directly used the Blacksmith creations are able to truly appreciate the feelings that were poured into these creations.”

……After saying this much, I feel that perhaps that may really be true.

At least as far as I’m concerned, I still have some attachment to the dagger and light equipment provided by the guild.

“And, if it was created specifically for someone, then it will contain more feelings, and allow it to unleash more of its ability……These words was what someone else had told me.”

Looking at Eina-san, who stuck out her tongue slightly, ba-dump, I was moved.

I would have never dreamed that this person would actually do such a childish act.

“Looks like I said too much. In conclusion, there exists items from the <Hephaestus Familia> that even Bell-kun is able to purchase. Bell-kun, how much money did you bring?”

“About that, exactly 10 000 Varisu.”

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“Well then, if I had to say, it might be tricky to fit a whole set of armor with that much money. Forget it, it might be just like what I said earlier. If we look carefully, there might be something from a rookie Blacksmiths, and we may find an unexpected reward. Now let’s go!”

Compared to me, it looks like Eina-san was more energetic. I, who had slightly calmed down, could only give a wry smile.

Eina-san’s suggested that it might be more efficient if we split up to search, so I temporarily split from her and was brought to a shop that had a signboard for armor and shield.

Once I entered the shop, a view that I have never seen before entered my eyes.

(Wow……Although these were the creations from the lowest ranked Blacksmith, the feeling of amazement didn’t change……)

It was most fitting to describe this as a Forest of Armor.

The pure white torso that was covered by a variety of armor, even if its body was standing on the floor, manifested its dignity. Among those, there were also life-sized dolls with armor on their body. It was possible to imagine how I would look if I were to wear it.

On the wall’s support, there were numerous shields and helmets. It seemed very simple, yet robust. It was also decorated with a gorgeous shine. There really is all kinds of equipment here.

Whether it was male or female, everybody was selecting the armor that fits them.

Looks like this shop allows you to try it on.

(What should I do. It feels that I'm becoming quite excited……?)

Looks like I was affected by the atmosphere of the shop, because even my pace sped up. I headed to the interior of the shop. Suddenly, I widened my eyes.

In the corner of the shop, there was something that wasn't eye-catching. There seemed to be a box of defensive gear that was stacked up like a small mountain.

It was a set of armor.

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Although the other armors were displayed on the doll's torsos, these were stacked up like a mountain of garbage, but they also gave off a feeling. Besides this box, there were also numerous similar boxes. Looks like these items are the creations that the <Familia> have deemed to be low-valued.

Even after being used, the quality should not be a problem. Perhaps these sets are already incomplete.

"Ah, they really are selling them……"

Close to the bottom of the box was a label: 5700, 6400, 3900…… Although the amount written in red was different, it still looked like a bargain.

The armor that I looked at before was already 15000 Varisu. Even the guild's light equipment that I was wearing now costs 5000 Varisu…… Yes, my thoughts were not wrong. This was a price level that I can buy.

But thinking about what Eina-san told me before, armor was used to protect my body and I shouldn't be stingy with it.

"……?"

Walking along the arranged boxes, I suddenly stopped.

Looking down into one of these boxes, I found a certain armor.

Silver white. It was not bright red nor was it a dull black. On the surface, it had a metallic luster flashing. There was no paint, and it

kept the original material's figure. However, it struck a chord with me.

I kneeled down to carefully look, and noticed that it was a light armor.

Although the knee guard and breastplate area was small, it feels like it will fit me.

Aside from that, the elbow, forearm , and waist had minimal protection. It looked like a very disorderly armor.

I tried to pick up the piece of breastplate, and it was very light. The guild's support goods could not compare with this. Then I knocked on it. Although I don't know whether it sounded good or bad, it felt like it will be able to protect me.

The size looks just right as well.

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"……"

I was very strongly attracted by it.

Of course it might be because it was the first time I saw such an item.

But when I noticed it, I had already been deeply fascinated by this armor.

Lifting up the breastplate, I carefully looked. Then I suddenly turned it around—— I have it now, <Welf Crosso>. it was the creator's signature that was engraved on the back of the breastplate.

Looks like it was not permitted to have the <Ήφαιστος> trademark on it.

(Welf Crosso……)

I'll remember it.

I forcibly turned my consciousness away from the armor to the name of the creator.

What Eina-san said about Adventurers and Blacksmiths having a

connection, it was the first time I experienced it after hearing about it.

I had already been captivated by this light armor, so I'll be sure to buy it.

Looking at the price recorded on the box……Eh, 9900 Varisu.

It was equivalent to the entire wealth that I brought……

"Hey—, Bell-kun! I saw something good! It was a leather armor! Although it is slightly expensive, but I still think it is the best if we think of a way to purchase it……Huh, Bell-kun also found something he likes?"

Eina-san, who had just returned, looked at the item from above since I was crouched down……Unnnn Uhhhh, she revealed a expression as if she was

thinking of something.

Looking at the selling method of it being placed in boxes, it is easy to give off an impression that it was the remainders of a defective product.

"……Did you decide to purchase that?"

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"Yes. I want this."

"Ha……Bell-kun really likes light armor. Since it was a chance to select armor, you decided it so quickly"

"S…Sorry"

Looking at me, who had a apologetic expression, Eina-san could only say "Well, don't mind it", and gave a wry smile.

"After all, Bell-kun will be the one that uses it. From my perspective, I can only hope you put a lot of thought into it since it's equipment that's protecting your body……but if you decided to purchase this, I won't oppose it."

"……Thank you"

I said a word of thanks while holding the box and stood up.

After reaching the cashier to pay, the remaining money I had was only 100 Varisu.

I really spent a considerable amount.

“Huh……?”

Eina-san had disappeared again. I carried my backpack that had the light armor inside and looked around.

Where did she head off to/ I racked my head and searched. Suddenly, I found her.

Eina-san, who had a devilish smile, was standing behind me. Did she just come out from the shop.

“Bell-kun, this is for you”

“……Eh?”

The item that was suddenly shoved over was a slender armor.

Its shape mimics the cover for the hands, its length was also from the wrist to the elbow. From the metallic surface, it can be seen to have the functions of a shield.

The color was also the same as Eina-san’s jade-like eyes.

“T…This is……”

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“My present that I’m giving to you. You have to remember to use it okay?”

“Ahhhh!? No, I can’t have it! P…Please return it immediately!”

“What? You’re not willing to accept the item that a female gave you?

“N…No, only……that I feel bad about it”

Although I hurriedly refused, I also said the truth. No matter what time or age, you will simply feel ill at ease for receiving a precious

item from a female.

I silently bowed my head, Eina-san revealed a smile.

“I hope you can accept it. This is not for me, but for you.”

“Ah……”

“To be honest, it is not surprising for an Adventurer to die at any time. No matter how powerful a person is, a little inattention will easily cause them to lose their lives. I have seen too many Adventurers not coming back”

“……”

“……I hope that you will not suddenly disappear, Bell-kun. Or are you still unable to accept the thing that I gave you?”

Eina-san smiled shyly, and stared at me.

With quiet eyes.

“Is it not possible?”

I could only look at the ground.

And tried hard to use my bangs to cover my slightly reddened face.

That kind of speaking is too cunning, I was not even able to say this sentence out.

“……And, Bell-kun, didn’t you say that you love me?”

“Huh!?”

This time, my face really turned red. Lifting my head, our gaze met.

Eina-san’s cheeks were also slightly dyed red.

“About that matter, it was because Eina-san had encouraged me, so I was happy and on a whim……”

“I was also very happy. Bell-kun said that he loved me. Although it was not that meaning, I also understood?”

No matter which side it was, they both had reddened faces.

“Perhaps you do not understand. I also slightly wish to become your strength. I do not wish to easily give Bell-kun, who has been working hard, to others. Okay, can you accept it now?”

Chon, she squeezed my nose.

I touched my nose that was squeezed by Eina-san, then I nodded with my reddened face.

“Thank you……”

“You’re welcome”

It feels that the chest that was holding the jade-colored armor also has something warm overflowing from it.

× × ×

“Looks like it’s getting a bit late……”

The sky was gradually being dyed into a dark red color. The time should be already evening.

After we finished buying our things, I walked Eina-san back home. Then I began returning home.

I ran and left the West Main Street and entered an alley that was formed by numerous tiny intersections.

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(My heartbeat was actually becoming fast due to Eina-san……This is bad)

The Wallenstein in my head used a cold glare to stare at me. Of course this was just wishful thinking.

I didn’t want to believe that I was faithless……Even though earlier before, I kept saying Harem this. Ah ha ha ha, I issued a broken voice as if I was escaping reality.

I am devoted to Wallenstein whole-heartily, I am devoted to Wallenstein whole-heartily……

“……Footstep sounds?”

I stopped my footsteps.

From the depths of the alley, *patapata*, what came was the sound of someone else running. One person……No, is it two.

One had a small body size. The other had a large body size. Because the sound emitted from the shoes had a significant difference, it was easily to discover this.

“From where……?”

I had just left the Main Street area. From my current position, if I turn around back to the road, I will be able to clearly look at the people coming from the Main Street.

And the sound of the footsteps were constantly approaching here.

Although they was still some distance away, if there was any trouble caused near our home, I will still feel bad.

While I was still a little uneasy, I stuck out my head to the opposite corner of the path that I usually use.

“Ah!”

“Eh?”

Surprisingly, a figure in front of my eyes fell down onto the floor. Looks like the running figure had stumbled from my foot, while I had stuck it out in order to look around.

I hurriedly approached the person that issued a tiny cry and took a closer look.

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(……Hobbit?)

With a height that was even shorter than Kami-sama and had what seemed to be slender hands and legs that would break if it was touched. No matter what body part, it was extremely small if viewed from the outside. This characteristics quickly allowed me to recall the name of this particular race.

It is the demi-race that loved to eat and dance, and is always noisy.

“Sorry, are you okay!?”

“Unnn……”

The tiny body quickly climbed up.

It was a girl. Her chestnut-colored, shoulder-length hair covered her neck.

From her appearance, she was very young. On her tiny face, her big round eyes gave off a deep impression.

“I finally caught up to you, you damn Hobbit!!”

Just when I was about to reach out to her, another person appeared from the depths of this small road. He issued off an angry roar that caused the Hobbit girl to revealed a pitiful expression.

The male, that had his eyes flash constantly, seemed to be an Adventurer.

His age should be around 20 or so? On his back was a sword that was slightly larger than average. But his body looked to be much stronger than mine.

“I will not let you escape anymore……!”

The youth revealed an evil-like expression that will cause others to stop breathing.

It even made me, who wasn’t confronting him, to instinctively step back. It was really scary.

——That person, what did he want to do to that Hobbit child?

While I was thinking about this, my body instinctively moved.

As if I was protecting the girl’s body, I stood in front of the youth.

“……Ah? Brat, out of the way, scram”

The man's gaze left the girl's body for the very first time, as if he had just noticed me.

My cheeks twitched. Even if I defeat more monsters, I will still not be able to get used to such a thing.

Although I was completely pressured by the man, but I still had a determination to stand still.

"T…That……May I ask you what you want from this child……?"

"You're annoying, brat!! If you don't scram quickly, I'l cut you together with her!"

——Ah, it doesn't work, we are unable to communicate.

I shed a tear while I prepared my resolve.

Although I did not know what had happened, but there was no doubt that this person wanted to do cruel things to the girl behind of me.

I removed my backpack and placed it on the ground at a corner. Seeing my actions, not only did the male Adventurer was shocked, even the Hobbit girl behind me was also surprised.

The male's eyes widened, his face quickly turned red.

"Brat……! You really want to die……!?"

"T…That, W…Why don't you temporarily calm down a bit……!?"

"Shut up, what do you plan to do!? Are you that chibi's companion!"

"I…It is my first time meeting her"

"Then why do you want to protect that fellow!?"

"……B…Because she's a girl?"

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"What are you talking about……!"

Really now, what am I saying……

But there was no other way. The other reasons were unrelated, thus

there was really only one reason.

As long as you're a male, then normally that is what you'll do right? If a girl was attacked, you would usually extend a helping hand right?

Forcing me to find a reason is only in vain……!?

"Forget it, I'll first turn you into pieces…….!"

The male used his hand to pull out the sword behind his back.

Real murderous intent shook my body, and reflexively, I also put out a posture for my ＜Goddess's Dagger＞

Ha, this was the sound of breathing. Looking back, I noticed that the Hobbit girl was currently staring at me with wide eyes.

No, it should be staring at my……＜Goddess's Dagger＞

Although the male was shocked for a moment when I took up a posture, but he quickly place strength back into his eyes and stared at this side.

——This is bad.

It is my first time fighting against a human……My legs are trembling. Is combat really like this?

The murderous intent, that was coming from the other side, caused me to enter a state of extreme tension. Sweat constantly emerged, and I also swallowed a few times. I was filled with anxiety and fear. In my posture, the male Adventurer revealed a grim smile. He probably understood that the enemy in front of him could be defeated effortlessly.

He went forward openly and shortened the distance between the two of us by a step.

I gritted hard and desperately suppressed my impulse to turn around and flee.

I could only imagine me belling killed. But, I did not retreat.

In the next instant, the male rushed over.

“Please do not continue to fight”

The male’s sword did not swing down at me.

A sharp voice broke the tension at the scene.

While puzzled, we looked toward the source of the sound. What entered our eyes was a female elf carrying paper bags in one hand.

Similar to Eina-san, she had a perfect face. And what was different than a half-elf compared to her, was that her two ears that stuck out was sharper.

Her bluish, almond-shaped eyes stared directly at the male Adventurer.

Ah, I remember that she was……indeed an employee at ＜Mistress of Abundance＞, Ryuu-san?

“One after another……!?What is the problem this time!?”

“The person that you want to harm……He is a companion of an irreplaceable colleague. I will never allow others to attack him”

What is she saying.

“That fellow is your fellow is, stop saying words that I can’t understand……! You all want to be turned into pieces by me, huh!?”

“Stop shouting”

—— *Shin*, the air froze.

The male that yelled loudly also became speechless. Ryuu-san, who narrowed her eyes, had quietly released an unparalleled sense of pressure. He had an troubled expression.

“……Uh……!?”

“I do not wish to do any violent acts. Because I will unconsciously overdo it”

While having her back faced towards the sunset coming from the Main Street, Ryuu-san said flatly.

What she said was mostly the truth.

Her powerful pressure that eroded the surroundings forced me to believe that it was true.

The male Adventurer's mouth continued to open and close. As if she was to issue off an ultimatum, Ryuu-san's empty hand, with a sound that seemed to pierce through the air, was equipped with a Kodachi.

C…Could not see it clearly……

"D…Damn it!?"

The male had a pale face and he decided to give up.

"……"

"Are you alright?"

To the female in front of me, that did not fight and was able to scare off the Adventurer, I was slightly afraid.

I wiped the sweat that was falling down to my chin. I do not know whether it was due to the Adventurer or whether it was because I was too concerned about her, I could not determine it.

Could Ryuu-san be an Adventurer……?

"Thank you, it was a great help……"

"You're welcome, I should be the one apologizing for doing such a rash action. If it was you, you would be able to solve it."

"No, that's not the case……."

I was extremely afraid. Afraid to the extent that I could only desperately imagine the worst circumstances

I scratched my cheek, then turned my gaze away.

“R…Ryuu-san, why are you here?”

“I had to buy things in order to prepare for the night business. It is different than during the daytime. There will be many Adventurers that come at night. It’s not acceptable if we don’t prepare in advance. On my way, I saw you so I

unconsciously came to look at the situation.”

I accepted it as if I understood the situation. <Mistress of Abundance> seemed to be a popular bar. If they only simply prepare a few food and wine, then it will quickly be emptied out.

But then again, unconsciously? I should not have seen her more than a few times……Could it be that this person has a strong sense of justice?

“Then what are you doing here?”

“Ah, right, that child……Huh?”

Looking around, the Hobbit girl that was still here earlier had suddenly disappeared.

“Was there someone else?”

“Ah, Yes. Although this was true……”

Was she afraid so she ran away.

If I really had to say, then it was unavoidable. After all, I had also felt fear.

Although I was still curious……

“Then I’ll go first.”

“Okay. I really appreciate for your help this time.”

After having a small talk with Ryuu-san, we split up from there.

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“Ah, good……”

Bell, who was equipped with his new armor, confirmed his own posture with the mirror.

The silver white light armor that was purchased yesterday matched well with the black shirt that was underneath it. Although it was called an armor, but it seemed to be weightless and it will not affect my movements.

My left wrist was also equipped with the shining jade-colored armor.

Bell stared at the defensive gear, that had the special characteristics of a jade to reflect, he obtained from Eina-san, and slightly smiled while touching it.

“Kami-sama, I’m heading out!”

“Yes~, Have a nice trip~……”

Bell headed to the entrance while giving a wry smile while glancing at his Goddess who was still lazily sleeping due to fatigue. He had already given up on persuading her about her work..

Before leaving, he still took a final glance at the mirror. From the temporary support armor to the armor that he was currently wearing, he finally seemed to look more like an Adventurer. While he thought like this, Bell also felt a little bit more proud.

With his <Dagger> and <Hestia’s Dagger> inserted near his waist, he was fully equipped. He left from the hidden room inside the church.

(The weather is really nice……)

Walking out from the church, a wide sky allowed his vision to expand forward.

I wonder if something good will happen today. Because there was such a good, cloudless weather, Bell could not help but think about that.

He finally reached the central square after passing through many alleys to the Main Street.

Following the flow of the Adventurers, Bell finally reached Babel.

(Today, I will also……)

Work hard, he could not help but remember the girl with the golden hair and golden eyes while saying this phrase.

“Onii-san, Onii-san. White haired Onii-san.”

Hearing the unexpected call, my actions couldn’t be helped but be interrupted.

“Eh?”

I turned to the direction where the sound came from. However, the nearby Adventurers continue to disappear from my eyes. I couldn’t find the person speaking with me.

“Onii-san, B…Below”

Searching for the slightly angry female voice, I looked downwards, ah, found her.

Her height was about 100 centimeters. Her cream-colored long robe was draped over her entire body. From the hood, you could see only a bit of her maroon-colored bangs. On her back was a big backpack that was several times bigger than her petite body. That backpack was huge to the extent that it was scary.

Bell, who was feeling a strong sense of déjà vu, tried hard to dig through the memories of yesterday night during the alley. Then he widened his eyes.

“Y…You are……”

“First time meeting you, Onii-san. Although it is a little abrupt, but are you looking for a Supporter?”

This way, it covered Bell’s voice, the girl used her baby-like finger to point behind Bell.

The direction of her finger was pointing at Bell’s backpack.

Only those that are solo Adventurers will equip a backpack. Anyone

can tell by simply connect those points together.

＜If they have an Supporter, Adventurers will not have to carry their own backpack＞.

Thus, she used a half-sure tone to confirm it as if he needed a Supporter, or something.

“A……Ahhhh?”

“Are you still confused? But isn’t the current situation very simple? A Supporter that is very important to an Adventurers, but is limited in amount, came to you”

In contrast to Bell’s dazed expression, the girl revealed a sunshine-like smile.

“T…That’s not the case……You are yesterday’s……?”

“……? Onii-san, have you met with Lili before? Lili do not seem to remember such a thing”

Towards the girl that tilted her head cutely, Bell also tilted his head.

The passing Adventurers around them all threw a what-are-they-doing type of gaze to them.

“Huh?”

“Besides that, Onii-san, what about it? Do you need a Supporter?”

“About that……If it is possible, then I probably will want to……?”

“Really! Then, why don’t you take Lili away, Onii-san!”

The girl was extremely excited. Her round eyes that were covered by her hood and bangs also shone brightly.

The large eyes gazed at the dagger inserted at Bell’s waist.

“That’s not it, but is it really okay, ah……?

“Ah, is it my name? I’m really sorry, Lili forgot to introduce herself”

The girl took a step back and revealed a hearty smile.

“Lili’s name is Liliruca Arde. Onii-san, what is your name”

The girl’s eyes that was looking up at Bell, seemed to be flashing strangely.

2章 サポーターの事情

Chapter 2: Supporter's Circumstances

“In other words, you’re a Supporter that has no affiliation……”

“Yes, Lili did enter a ＜Familia＞ though”

Babel 2nd floor, the simple canteen. Most of the Adventurers have already entered the dungeon by noon. In the vast space that was used by a few, I was currently having a conversation with a petite girl across the table.

This was to carefully consider the suggestion that was brought forth by the girl, Liliruca Arde.

“The ＜Familia＞ name is?”

“＜Soma’s Familia＞, Onii-san. Lili reckons that it is a rather famous faction.”

According to Liliruca-san, it seems that she negotiated and was allowed to accompany Adventurers in exploring the dungeon as a Supporter. However, it seems that her contract with her companions was canceled. Afterwards, she was perplexed while she was trying to find a target to renew her contract. She had passed through days of walking back and forth to the guild and Babel. Then today, she found me.

Since I had no Adventurer companions and also no Supporter, I was a genuine solo Adventurer.

According to her, she would not consider supporting anyone else. In other words, she already had the feeling that I could be the only one.

Although I really wanted a Supporter since a long time ago…… However, I was not happy to the extent where I could straightforwardly nod my head to her request.

I quietly observed the girl in front of me. Her body was very thin. Under her deep hood that she was wearing, her thin lips had an innocent smile sketched onto it.

She had a cute and compact face, and her nose also had a graceful curve. It gave off an impression of <Precocious> that matched her appearance.

Although I was reluctant to suspect such an innocent child, but it was simply common sense to not accept the other party's request without questioning it.

Since there were also other areas that I was concerned about, I decided to first question her and understand her completely.

"Why are you choosing me, who belongs to a different <Familia>? Having a relationship with another <Familia> member isn't necessarily a good thing……Can't you form a party within your own <Familia>?"

"Ehehe, Lili is small and does not have much strength. To Lili, who is slow in everything, the other <Familia> members all hate me and also treat me as if I was in the way. Even if I beg them, they are not willing to let me join"

Being excluded by her companions, but describing it as if nothing had happened, I could not help but have a cold sweat.

"People who do nothing cannot rest or eat in peace. Continuing to stay at the <Familia> residence would make me feel uncomfortable, so I have often wandered around, searching for a cheap hotel to stay overnight."

Even though it was their residence, but she couldn't sleep there. It even got to the extent where she feels like she couldn't hang around that place……H…How could there be such a thing.

What she said to me was shocking. There are actually people who are excluded within a <Familia>.

In my opinion, a <Familia> should be something like a family.

Although <Hestia's Familia> only has Kami-sama and I, but it was filled with our deep bonds inside.

This was absolutely not a way to comfort others, it was a place that was filled with a warm atmosphere that you could call it your home. Even if the amount of people increases, this should not change.

A relationship that should share the joys and sorrows throughout your life, that should be a ＜Familia＞.

And this child's ＜Familia＞ actually……had contempt for their own family members?

I felt a bit dizzy. Although I simply could not believe it, but it feels that I was suddenly pulled back to the world that I was familiar to, and I produced a slight tremble.

"The money that I have left to live in the hotel is only a fist-sized amount, so I really don't know what to do. Please Please Please! Lili wants to enter the dungeon together with Onii-san!"

Did she notice my hesitation to speak, Lili added a large explanation in one go.

……Although there were many thoughts that emerged, but I ignored them.

I, who was deeply troubled by various things, quickly switched my thinking and turned my consciousness back to the original purpose.

"I understand Liliruca-san's circumstances……There is one final point that I want to confirm. Is that okay?"

"Yes, what is it?"

"We, really never met each other before?"

Yesterday, the hobbit girl that I met in the alley, is she really not Liliruca-san.

That was what I was curious about. Although I wasn't able to clearly confirm from just the appearance and the voice, but that child had characteristics that was exceedingly similar to her. Only one day had passed, so I should not have been mistaken.

"Lili feels that it is her first time meeting with Onii-san……Could it be that you've noticed wrong?"

"……If it is possible, can you take off that hood?"

If I'm able to confirm what was underneath that deep hood she was wearing, then I should be able to make an accurate judgment. The

reason why I couldn't be sure

whether or not they were the same person was mainly because I had only seen half of that child's face.

Liliruca-san, who clearly revealed a shaken expression from this request, had her body trembled slightly a few times, and quietly muttered "I understand……". She used both her tiny hands to lift up the hood.

"……Eh?"

"I…Is this okay?"

What entered my view was extremely cute animal ears that trembled slightly above her head.

I half-opened my mouth, and was frozen on the spot.

"……Beast…Beastman?"

"Y…Yes, Lili is a dog person."

I was stunned and stared for a few seconds, *pa*, I stood up imposingly and leaned over from one side of the table.

Perhaps feeling my gaze, Liliruca-san, who was sitting on the chair, seemed to be embarrassed and slowly wrapped her body. The tail that was hiding underneath the robe was also revealed. A maroon colored tail was constantly moving around.

Not a Hobbit, but a Beastman girl?

……It can't be.

I couldn't accept it and unconsciously raised my hand towards Liliruca-san's two ears. Ignoring Liliruca-san's trembling shoulders, I grabbed onto the two animal ears.

"Nnnnn……"

There was a warm and soft feeling in my fingers that wrapped around it. There was also a fluffy feeling.

When I moved my fingers, Liliruca-san's face was blushing and

constantly trembled.

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……It was real.

Whether it was this bushy hair or the flesh underneath its skin. Even the pink and moist inner part of the ear, all of it cannot be made. There is no doubt that it was animal ears.

(I…It's not that child……)

This isn't a mistake anymore. No matter how similar they look, but their race was different, and there is nothing more convincing than this.

Pushing out those common points outside of my mind, I gave up on my original suspicion.

"A…About that, Onii-san……"

"——!? S…Sorry!"

Hearing the voice that was about to disappear, I finally noticed my own posture. It was like I was about to jump over to her. So I pull away from her.

She, as a beastman, quickly used her hands to cover the two ears that was played around by me. Then with reddened cheeks, she stared at me and revealed a mischievous smile.

"There was actually a boy who played around Lili's most important ears, and made a big mess out of it……If that's the case, you have to take responsibility, right?"

……I was surprised to the extent where I could not speak.

Instantly, I was embarrassed and my face turned red, and I could only temporarily apologize.

"……W…Why do you have to hide your own race's behavior?"

"Lili's hair is very thick, so it is very ugly. So I do not wish to let other people see……"

After apologizing for a long period of time, I timidly inquired. Liliruca-san shyly replied while she wore the hood again.

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Although I find the broomy hair very likable, and very cute……But this was a problem that I, as a man, would not understand. Perhaps if I was a female, then maybe I would understand.

Anyways, if it was the dwarf race's Hobbit then I might still understand, but there was actually such a small beastman child…… Could Liliruca-san's age be only around 10.

"Then, Onii-san, how about it? Do you want to hire Lili?"

"……I understand. Then tentatively, just for today, please be my Supporter"

"Thank you!"

Because of the guilt generated due to the ears, I was unable to reject her request. If I had rejected it, then wouldn't I have become a perverted man who harassed this girl before running away.

……And, to be fair, a Supporter is an existence that I hope to have one of these days. I, who wish to become stronger, wanted to fully concentrate on the battle.

Liliruca's proposal was just what I hoped for.

"Then, when do I have to pay the contract price……I should have to give, right?"

"Although there is also the circumstances you have just said, but since today is still a trial period, so it should be okay if you give me part of your share of revenue from exploring the dungeon? Lili will be so happy if she is able to receive 30% "

"Ah ah, you only want this little? Actually you should have a bit more……."

After some time, Liliruca-san, with a carefree smile, and I faced each other and immersed in a conversation.

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In the dungeon, using the confirmed floors as a threshold, the terrain and nature will change.

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The 1st to 4th Floor are constructed with light blue walls. Almost all monsters that appear are low-level monsters such as Goblin and Kobolds. There are very few species.

Although there is a subtle change that is produced when approaching the 4th floor, but it is known that the only area that the rookie Adventurers can easily raid are the uppermost floors, as long as you're not acting by yourself while being surrounded by monsters. In other words, if you form a party, it is difficult to lose your life.

However, from the 5th floor onward, the situation begins to change.

Not only does the wall's appearance turns into a light green color, the dungeon structure itself becomes more complicated. Led by the <Killer Ant> that first appears on the 7th floor, many other tricky monsters also frequently appear.

And the interval between the monster emerging from the wall cannot be compared with the 4th floor. The instant you enter a dead-end, it was common for numerous monsters to climb out from the walls and surround you.

Most of the rookies that lack tension on the upper floors will die here. Even if they aren't careless, the 5th to 7th floors is the first to demonstrate the dungeon's threat. It is also the first difficulty that Adventurers will encounter.

Once items that were brought were overused, then they will not be able to progress further to a Lower Floor easily. First they should train their foundations on the 4th floor or above. This is not limited to just <Status>, Experience, Equipment, Intelligence, the qualities of an Adventurer must all be improved.

To rookie Adventurers, they should first have the goal of building up strength and working hard.

And this is especially so for solo Adventurers.

"Fu～～!"

“*GISHAAAAAA*～!?”

Bell’s circumstance was slightly different.

Although he had not entered the ranks of a top-class Adventurer, but he had a growth speed that was well above ordinary people.

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A violent horizontal strike caught the Killer Ant’s thin abdomen and split it in half.

The current location is on the 7th floor. Normally, it is a floor that requires a team to work closely together, but Bell continued to battle by himself against the endless swarms of monsters.

“*JIGIGIGIGIGIGI*～!”

“Ha!”

“*BUGII*!?”

Dodging the ＜Purple Moth＞ that descended from the sky, and at the same time, using ＜Hestia’s Dagger＞ to cut off one of its wing.

Taking advantage of when the huge moth loses its balance after its wing was cut off, and inserting the ＜Dagger＞ into its body. He swiftly caused it to stop breathing.

“Stay there, don’t move!”

What headed to Bell this time was Killer Ants again. And it was two of them.

Staring at the monster that used its mouth, which was specialized for insects to intimidate me, the next instant, I accelerated.

I pretended to have both Killer Ants as targets and headed towards the middle of the two, but my actual target was the one on the right.

Suddenly, I forcibly changed my direction. At that moment, the monster’s reactions was also slower by a beat.

“—— *GA*!?”

The dagger that assaulted forward, stabbed at the middle of the Killer Ant's body.

To crush the hard shell, <Hestia's Dagger> roared as it tore through the flesh. The Monster did not even issue out his final cry. Its eyes gradually became dim, and the Killer Ant became silent.

Although Bell wanted to immediately deal with the other Killer Ant ——But he could not pull out the Dagger.

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"Huh!?"

The hard shell that was pierced caused the Dagger hilt to be stuck. Bell temporarily could not move.

Just at that moment, the Monster that had its brethren killed entered a berserk state and dramatically turned around, its sharp claws swung down towards Bell.

Bell rapidly lifted up his left arm.

"*GIIIIII*~!?"

"……Ahhhhhhhh~!"

Gakin, what repelled the claw was the jade colored hand armor.

Sparks flew out from on top of the armor, which even the Killer Ant's attack power could not cause any damage onto.

Bell began his counterattack. Ignoring his numbed left hand, he threw the dagger it was holding onto into the air, then grabbed it using his right hand, which left the <Hestia's Dagger>

And slashed.

The <Dagger> entered through the gaps of the hard shell. The purple blood sprayed out, and then continued to leak out.

Ignoring the power of the weapon that was evaluated as the lowest, the dagger had already given a fatal injury to the Killer Ant.

"—— *GI*"

“Next!”

After recovering <Hestia’s Dagger>, Bell gave another attack onto the Killer Ant, and without a break, headed towards the remaining group of Monsters.

“Bell-sama, so strong~”

Beside the scene where Bell was continuously dispersing the group of Monsters, Lili was gathering the corpse of the monsters that he killed together.

Her actions were very skilled. Even when she was smiling slightly, she did not forget to be careful of her surroundings. There was no doubt that she was trying to avoid to bump into other monsters. Using a tea-color specially created rope for Supporters, she was tying the hands and legs of the monsters, and pulled them through the dungeon.

“Shii~!”

“*KIIIII*~!?”

The area that Lili was actively moving around did not seem to limit Bell, he turned the <Needle Rabbit> into food for his <Dagger>.

Bell was faithful to the basics. Although he already had the power to defeat Killer Ant level monsters, he did not feel overly confident. Following the guidance of his adviser, Eina-san, he first defeated the tricky Killer Ants that could call for companions, in order to try to avoid a development where it was many against one.

It could be said that the battle within this wide room was all within Bell’s grasp.

“—— *GUSHAAA*……! *SHAAAAAAAAAA*!!”

“WAAAAAA! B…Bell-sama, new ones are coming again!?”

The Killer Ants issued a pitiful cry as it slowly climbed out from the dungeon walls.

The scene that had already happened who knows how many times, had appeared again. Bell quickly took action.

He took care of the remaining monsters swiftly, then ran towards the

Killer Ant that was trying to climb out from the wall.

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After running around 10 meters, he stomped hard onto the ground with his left leg.

“Seeenoooo～～!!”

“*GUVUUUU*!?”

A flying kick burst out.

Don,a blunt sound came from the wall. The Monster that had its head twisted in a strange direction also had its body limp down as if it had lost its strength.

“Ahhh～……What should we do, Bell-sama? This Killer Ant still had part of it buried inside the Wall?”

“W…What should we do then?”

It was in a strange position since it did not successfully come out from the hole, Bell looked at the Killer Ant that had half its body hanging from the wall, and could not help but sweat. Heading towards the location of the Monster that was larger than hers, Lili skipped, *patapata*, and noticed Bell’s troubled face from the side, and smiled.

“Bell-sama is so strong, but there are still areas that are strange. Ahahaha!”

“……This isn’t something to laugh at”

Bell revealed a helpless expression towards Lili’s laughter sound, then a gentle, but wry smile also appeared slowly.

After that, their surroundings finally started becoming gradually quiet. The two of them finally had a short break and they began to do recovery work for the Magic Stone.

Although there were two people, but this field could be said to be the specialty of the Supporter-class Lili. Bell was only responsible for being alert against enemy attacks.

“Ha, you’re really skilled at it……”

“Lili’s only merit is in this. Bell-sama, who defeated these monsters, is much much more amazing”

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The technique that Lili, who was using a dagger she had prepared herself, used to neatly dig out the Magic Stone was very refined.

Following the light dance from her tiny hands, the Monster’s body had an additional hole and then turned to ashes.

Bell compared the view of his own immature technique with Lili’s technique, while he uttered the words he was thinking about.

“……About that, isn’t it about time you stop calling me as Bell-sama……”

“Sorry, but what you said is absolutely impossible. Although it is only a temporary contract, we must distinguish the line of authority. While facing Adventurer-sama, Supporters must remain modest at all times.”

“No, but, Liliruca-san”

“Bell-sama, please call Lili as Lili. Although other names are also fine, but please do not add –san.”

“But it is obviously just how we call each other, why do……”

After the third Killer Ant turned into ashes, Lili raised her head and looked at Bell.

Underneath the eyes that were covered by the hood, the corner of the mouth moved, “Is this okay, Bell-sama?”, and began to explain.

“Supporter. Although the name sounds good, but after you understand it, you will find that Lili and the other Supporters are simply people who carry the luggage.

From the perspective of the Adventurers, who directly fight with Monsters, Lili and the others can be seen as cowards who are hiding at a safe place, as we’re watching on the sidelines. They are just parasites that want a piece of the pie.”

From the instant that they enter the dungeon, Supporters are also exposed to the same danger, so it should be lumped together, but Lili

did not change it and continued to talk.

“It is already arrogant if we think that Lili and the others are on the same level as Adventurer-sama. Adventurer-sama will not allow it as well. If we do such a thing, Adventurer-sama will be mad and won’t give out the appropriate rewards to Lili”

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“There is actually such a thing!?”

“Bell-sama’s kindness, even Lili, who have just met you, also understands.

However, we must draw a clear line. If Lili disrespects Bell-sama, then that means Lili is an arrogant Supporter. If such an assessment was sent out, then while other Adventurers, aside from Bell-sama, are entering the dungeon, they will not consider hiring Lili. So sometimes being futile is also a good point.”

“……”

If it was just me, I could deny it. However, to represent the other Adventurers, Bell could not say a thing.

What might be a needless matter to me, could be another matter for others.

“Although I have to force Bell-sama to do something that he is not accustomed to, but can you please accept? Please Please help Lili”

“……I understand, Lili”

“Thank you!”

In the end, Bell still gave up. Since it was for the sake of Lili, he should still give up on his own trivial insistence.

He will not use the formal words, and strive to create an atmosphere, as if they were friends of the same age.

“Anyways……Is Bell-sama really a rookie Adventurer? You could defeat so many Monsters by yourself……”

Lili seemed to have temporarily taken a short break, stopped her

hands from working, and counted the amount of corpse remaining.

Including the corpse that had already turned into ashes, there are 4 Killer Ants, 3

Purple Moths and 5 Needle Rabbit. All together, there was a total of 12 Monsters.

Aside from the human-sized Killer Ant, Purple Moth and Needle Rabbit are all small-sized Monsters. It was not so cumbersome if they had to fight against it.

Although saying this, others will view it as very strange for a single person being able to defeat so many Monsters.

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“Although saying that I defeated them, there were many times that I was in danger.”

“Because Bell-sama is fighting alone, there is no other way. A normal Adventurer-sama will usually form a team of three or more before entering the dungeon, you know? Normally no one will go solo.”

“But, it isn’t that I wish to fight by myself. Even if you say normally no one does it, but I have no choice? Besides, there are still many Adventurers that are stronger than me, who is a Level 1.”

“About that……Perhaps that might be true.”

“Since you have formed a contract before with many parties, haven’t Lili seen a stronger Adventurer than me?”

“……Yes. Indeed, Lili have seen many Adventurers that are stronger than Bell-sama……”

“Ah, looks like I’m still weak”

Lili revealed a puzzled expression while looking at Bell, who had a wry smile.

This is due to the slight deviation from the topic between the two of them.

There are indeed Adventurers that implement the principle of being

alone. But Lili was not asking questions about this point, but rather the point about how Bell had not yet become an Adventurer for even a month.

Based on common sense, the floor range a Level 1 Adventurer can raid is from 1st to 12th floor.

If it was based on Basic Ability to divide the ranks then, 1 – 4th floor is I to H, 5th – 7th floor is G to F, 8 – 10th floor is E to C and 11-12 Floor is B to S.

However, this was ultimately just limited for reference. After reaching the 13th floor, there will be Monster that appear that only a Level 2 Adventurer will be able to defeat. A Level 1 Adventurer will absolutely not be able to raid it.

If we had to estimate what was the <Average> Level of Orario's Adventurer, then it would be Level 1. Half of the Adventurers are all currently in this state.

Then the remaining half which included the elite strength, would be Level 2. There are only a small number of Adventurers that have their Levels above this.

The transitional phase between Level 1 and Level 2 is the boundary between a low-class Adventurer to a high-class Adventurer. In other words, there was a wide gap. Being able to be recognized as a <Third-Class Adventurer>, which is a clear position, only begins from Level 2. If the average was Level 1, then from that point, it is a world that requires the talent and qualities in order to compete.

Since the personal information such as Basic Abilities are strictly managed, it was hard to define what was considered the standard <Status> for a Level 1 <Status>.

They only know that Adventurers who have not <Level Up> will most likely stop between the 7th to 10th floor.

Which also means that the Basic Abilities ranks from G-C. This could mean that this was the universal <Status> for <Average> an Adventurer, who had not pass through the evaluation of a rookie, but had entered the area of being experienced.

And Bell, who had become an Adventurer for just over half a month, was able to match them. It was justifiable for Lili to expose a puzzled expression.

“……Nnn, the reason why Bell-sama is so strong, beside from the ＜Status＞, the weapon also plays a key role.

There was a slight change in tone from Lili.

Underneath the hood and covered by her bangs, her eyes flashed out as if she was planning something, and she stared at the dagger hung along Bell’s waist.

Bell, who did not notice this expression, could only shyly smile.

“Looks like that’s true. I seem to be overly relying on this dagger. If that’s the case, then could it be that I actually did not become stronger?”

“There is no such thing. As a weapon, it is their wish to be relied by their owner.

The most important thing is to not be played around by the weapon. If you are to control it effectively, then it will become a powerful strength for Bell-sama.”

“I…Is that so?”

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At this moment, Bell was currently alert against the surroundings and had his back against Lili. He could not help but stretch out his hand behind and gently touch the dagger.

From the tip to the handle, it was his treasured dagger that was completely black.

Through the gaps of his finger, you could see the ＜ Ήφαιστος＞ engraving.

Lili’s eyes shone brightly.

“Even Lili, who is not familiar with weapons, also understand that Bell-sama’s dagger is an amazing thing, where did you get it? Please allow me to be rude, but Bell-sama, as a rookie, should not have that

much money……”

“It is Kami-sama……My <Familia>’s Goddess bestow it to me. I think it was said that she begged her Goddess friend for it and finally obtain this item. It was really reckless”

“……That is … a really nice Goddess”

“Yes……She is a very important person to me”

The tremble hidden inside her voice, and the slight jealousy did not seem to be conveyed to Bell’s ears.

“Bell-sama”

“Ah, finished already?”

To Bell, who had swiftly changed his direction, Lili smiled.

“Let’s get the Magic Stone from the Killer Ant that is buried in the wall, after all, you did waste your effort to defeat it”

“Ahah, that’s right. But how should we do it?”

“I think that as long as we cut through that narrow body, then it will be okay. Since the Magic Stone is inside the chest. Lili will be responsible afterwards.”

“I see. Then……”

“Here you go, Bell-sama”

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“Eh….Ah, yes”

Bell accepted the dagger that Lili suddenly handed out. Although he originally wanted to use <Hestia’s Dagger>, but forget it, he went over to the Killer Ant that had half its body buried.

He held onto the hard shell of the corpse while cutting through the waist that connected the upper and lower body.

(Ah, it is slightly difficult to cut……)

Bell, who was entered in a tough battle as he was not used to the dagger, could not help but tiptoed.

He concentrated all his awareness to his sight, and completely did not notice the back.

His uncovered waist was revealed to the surroundings. It was a completely defenseless state.

“?”

He felt that his nerves was slightly sensitive and felt as if something was pulling.

Then he immediately turned around.

“Finished?”

Within his gaze, Lili was standing next to Bell, and had straighten her back to look at the monster. Bell, who was stunned for a moment, could only give a wry smile, then after a while, he moved his hand again.

The Killer Ant was swiftly cut apart, and in Lili’s hand was the extracted Magic Stone.

“Then that is all for today, Bell-sama”

“Eh, that’s all? I still haven’t felt tired yet.”

“That’s not the case, you were too careless. Bell-sama defeated many Purple Moths today, but they are Monsters that spread poisonous spores. Although it

doesn’t have an instantaneous effect, but facing it numerous times will still produce a <Poisoned> symptom”

“I…It can’t be!?”

“It’s true. And unfortunately, the antidote that Lili carries around was used up……Please return to Babel as soon as possible in order to go through treatment.

Then he finally remembered. Eina had also warned him that he had to pay attention and maintain a distance while fighting against various

Moths. Owww, Bell, who pressed his temple, agreed with Lili's opinion.

"What happens if I enter a <Poisoned> state……Isn't there not much time before the symptoms appear? Or do I have to make every effort to defeat all the monsters while returning……"

"That's not a problem, Bell-sama. Let Lili teach you the method of how to swiftly return when not fighting against Monsters"

"T…There is such a method"

Yes, Lili nodded while she talked and pointed at the entrance of the room. After passing through the entrance, there were a number of Adventurers at the very depths of the road. Once that side noticed Bell, they understood that there were no monsters nearby, and turned around and left.

"If you follow the other Adventurer's path to retreat, then you will not encounter any monsters. After all, Adventurers all chase after Monsters —— They enter the dungeon for the Magic Stone and Loot."

"Ah ah, I see."

"If there is a Monster, then just hide so the other team fights it. The most important thing is to select a route that has people in it. Then it is possible to reduce the chances of battling a monster to zero."

Normally, in order to not have any unnecessary dispute, you should try to avoid the areas where other <Familia> members gather. But depending on the situation, there were no limits.

If you skillfully use the correct timing, then you may find a breakthrough point to pass through the dilemma.

"If it is at this time, then Adventurers should still be entering the Dungeon in a large amount. Please follow Lili, to Bell-sama, there is no need to use your weapon once.

Towards Lili, who revealed a smile, Bell felt that she was very reliable.

Whether it was the knowledge about the dungeon, she would definitely understand it better as she had been in longer contact with

it, so he frankly nodded his head.

“Lili, you are really amazing. Although they say that Supporter is this and that, but you are very reliable”

“As long as Bell-sama accumulates experience, then you will be able to swiftly approach it. Okay, let’s go!”

Bell was pulled by Lili, who seemed to be desperate to leave, began to leave.

Following the trial remaining on the ground, they had bumped into other Adventurers a few times, and only occasionally encountered Monsters. Lili’s technique was really beautiful since they were able to do this.

It was to the point that it felt that it was too successful, the efficiency was so high.

“Bell-sama, Bell-sama. About today’s payment……”

“Yes. Since you have already helped me so much, let’s just split it evenly……”

“I’ll give all the Magic Stone and Loot that I recovered to Bell-sama. This will also allow you to have a comfortable income.”

“Ahhh! Then if that’s the case, won’t Lili have worked for nothing!! Didn’t you say you originally wanted 30%!?”

“If I am able to gain Bell-sama’s trust this time, then I am happy. Today could be said to allow Bell-sama to recognize the value of Lili, which could also be a ritual to see whether Lili is trustworthy or not”

“Nnn, you know……?”

“Everybody does that, not only Bell-sama”

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Doing actions to test Lili’s behavior, and was seen through by Lili, Bell felt very embarrassed.

His face was embarrassed to the extent where he felt sorry for her.

“……Forget it, I’ll give him a parting present”

A mosquito-like whisper entered the air and disappeared with the wind.

“……? Did you say something, Lili?”

“No, I did not say anything. Bell-sama, if it is possible, then please hire Lili again in the future?”

“Yes, I will try,, please let me think about it”

Afterwards, Lili ran ahead, turned around and faced Bell.

“Okay. Lili will always be staying inside of Babel, you can find me at any time.

Lili will absolutely never escape, please carefully consider it.”

Then, she revealed a whole-hearted smile.

× × ×

“Eh…A Supporter from another <Familia> huh……”

“As expected, it is bad right?”

In the familiar meeting room inside the guild headquarters, I was currently discussing with Eina-san about the matter regarding Lili. When I returned, I first headed off to the healing facility in Babel (It costs money) and also the gold exchange, then I headed straight here.

Anyways, I am ashamed of myself. I feel that I would not be able to judge this situation correctly by myself.

Being able to seek the advice from others was definitely good, so I headed off to find Eina-san for her opinion.

“Although there are problems between <Familia>, but it isn’t the first time that a contract was formed on the premise that both sides will benefit……What do you think, Bell-kun, about that child called Liliruca?”

“Yes, she is a good child……Her skill as a Supporter is not bad”

Including her work ability as a Supporter, my impression towards Lili wasn’t poor.

Or perhaps I should say, I was filled with feelings that were similar to compassion and, at the same time, I felt that I could not ignore that child.

Although I know that I should not mix such feelings……But as expected, I could not do it.

Being excluded by her <Familia>’s companions and was always alone. It feels that the words that Lili had said at that time were not fake. It gave off this feeling that she was just stating the facts in general.

“Do you know which <Familia> that child belongs to?”

“Yes, I remember that it was the <Soma’s Familia>”

“<Soma’s Familia>?……Appearing again at this situation where there is no clear reason to accept or reject?”

“About that, Eina-san. The <Soma’s Familia>, what kind of <Familia> is it?”

After being inquired by me, Eina-san could only say “wait a while”, then she quickly flipped open a large file that was already prepared. During this period, she also neatly put on her glasses that she took from her pocket.

Not only just from her own knowledge, she probably wanted to teach me more detailed information about it.

“<Soma’s Familia> is regarded as a typical exploration <Familia>. If I have to say what is different about them compared to the other similar <Familia>, it would be that they are involved in business as well”

“Business? If that is said, then what products are they selling in the market?”

“Ah…Selling wine”

“Wine……?”

“Yes. Although the type of wine will constantly change based on the market.

However, what has not changed was that the amount produced was very little, and that the taste is also top-class. It seems to be a popular product with high demand in Orario”

It is also understandable that they were developing into a business, Eina-san adds on.

Because this class, an Adventurer, would always be haunted with the risk of losing their lives at any time. So if they wish to have a stable developing <Familia>, it is best to engage in ordinary occupations. Although business may be considered as a gamble, but Adventurers are always fighting with their lives on a bridge that may snap any moment. This also means that it is a career that is on the border next to death.

However, Adventurers are also different from the others. In this labyrinth city, only Adventurers who follow the high-risk, high-return principle, may be able to earn money quickly.

“The <Familia>’s strength is also considered to be in the middle of the middle.

Although there are no superior individuals, but the strength of the Adventurers are all above average. Wow……The main point is that the number of members are too amazing. This was something that I just learned.”

“The <Familia> having many members, this represents……”

“Seems like many people have faith in the main God, Soma. About that god, it seems that there are absolutely no rumors whether he is good or bad……”

“About that……From what I heard from the child called Lili, it seems that Soma-sama does not interact with the other Gods, correct?”

“Why not say that the God Soma is more famous in that perspective. It’s already strange for the gods to exist in this mortal world, and that God is just like that. I’ve heard that he had never once attended the

banquets that the other gods organized.

In fact, he does not seem to have a single friend. Maybe it is better to say, is there a God that knows that God? It is even to this extent”

This is really……How should I put it, extreme if nothing else.

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Never being concerned about the future or anything else, this was what Lili had said.

The reason why Eina-san would not say words about rejecting or accepting is because this <Familia>’s attitude to the outside was too ambiguous. It cannot claim to be a <Familia> that makes everybody friendly and smile, but it is also not a <Familia> that you absolutely do not want a relationship with…….Or a similar kind of feeling?

“I feel that the <Familia> itself has no strange areas…….But”

“But?”

Eina-san seemed to grit her teeth and frowned, but then she cut through her doubts and opened her mouth.

“It is just my own subjective opinion, but the atmosphere from the Adventurers in the <Soma’s Familia> seemed to be different from the normal <Familia>’s Adventurers. I should say that even if they are companions, they do not concede to each other, and are too passionate about Magic Stone and Items……”

“……”

“Although it doesn’t feel like they are anxious for success. How should I express it, that is…….Anyways, it feels that all the members that belong in that <Familia> are too desperate”

Eina-san, who was constantly talking, also had a puzzled face. Needless to say, I was also extremely confused.

I do not know why, but after understanding the background of the organization, I feel that the situation about Lili seemed to be even foggier.

“For the time being, I agree to hire her as a Supporter”

“Ah, is that alright?”

“Yes. Indeed there are many strange areas in <Soma’s Familia>, but I also believe that the dispute between factions will absolutely never happen. Based on Soma’s personality.”

Which means that it was the same opinion as Lili, right.

“Just be careful not to annoy other members, then it should be okay. And personally, I also hope that you, who is alone, will quickly find a Supporter to form a party. Should I say that this is something that I have always been trying to persuade you about.”

“Eina-san……”

“But the decision will be made by Bell-kun himself. Of course, the final decision is still up to you. You have to take on your own responsibility”

……Of course.

If I accepted Lili based on another person’s decision, then it will be very rude to her. From this point on, I will have to think about it myself and draw a conclusion.

I tidied my head again and reached my final answer.

“I also agree. Although I have always been trying to find a solo Supporter, I still couldn’t find any. The previous Supporters that I met had already joined who knows what <Familia>.”

Sorry, Eina-san gave a wry smile. I had discussed with her before about whether or not if I should hire a Supporter. Perhaps she had always been concerned about it.

“Another reason is because solo Supporters will not specifically enter the Dungeon.

With a different contract individual, their rewards will also vary. Also, there are many other jobs that are safe and give out high rewards”

No affiliation will also mean not belonging to any <Familia>, Of course <God’s Grace>……<Status> will also not be granted.

Basically, they will have the same physical ability as an average person.

Nnnn, there are dwarves with high physical power or elves that control magic that won't be at a disadvantage against a battle against normal Monsters, so you can't say that all of them have no battle power.

Once I thought about this, *Fuuu*, I began to recall the phrase that I was concerned about when I talked with Lili.

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"Eina-san. Supporters, do they not have a very close relationship with

Adventurers?"

"…….It is like this. The people who specialize in Support may have a relatively lower status. The reason behind is something that you should already know without me saying it……"

People who only carry the luggage. The phrase that Lili had said before reawakened in my mind.

If that is really true, the feelings towards Adventurers, must have changed from a dream to a feeling close to despair.

"Normally, only people who are weak will select to become an Supporter. And among the top-class <Familia>, even if they <Level Up>, they will still be let the Adventurers, who may have a lower rank, to act."

However, if that's the case, they will be able to observe in close distance the Adventurers that are leading while exploring the dungeon. This means there is also a side where they can learn. Although they are just the people who carries the luggage, but by following others, they will be able to reach a floor that they will never achieve by their own strength, an unseen territory—— The strength of the powerful monsters and the tactics used by the elites from their <Familia>—— They have the opportunity to perceive it with their own eyes.

"Even if someone is granted a <God's Grace>, it does not mean that anyone can become infinitely strong. It also depends on their qualities

and their mental strength of not flinching when a Monster is in front of them. Even if you're able to defeat Low-Level Monsters, there will be many tricky situations that one will have to eventually encounter."

"……"

"If I have to say, the Adventurers, that eventually give up, will specialized into becoming a Supporter……Even though it is not a large number. But that may also be a reason why they will easily become a target of contempt."

The atmosphere seemed to have become somewhat heavy. From Eina-san's bitter expression, it was clear that this type of topic was not especially pleasant.

However, that was it. This was why Lili will be so modest. Perhaps it was because she was labeled by the surrounding people as useless. Including being excluded by the people inside her <Familia>, all of it.

…….I feel that my chest was slightly stuffy.

What, this kind of feeling. Although it was not my own problem, I still became restless.

While I was attacked by the urge to unconsciously scratch my head, I gritted my teeth and stood up from my seat.

Originally I only wanted to casually ask, but it seems that we had completely entered it.

"Thank you, Eina-san for giving so many suggestions out. I will carefully consider it."

"Yes. I'm always very free here, so if there are any troubles, please come and find me?"

Towards the gently smiling Eina-san, I thanked her again.

Then I gently stretched and prepared to head to the door of the room.

"Huh……Bell-kun?"

“Is there any problem?”

“Your Dagger, what happened?”

“Eh?” I unconsciously made a dumb response.

Eina-san, who was just about to stand up, had an surprised expression while staring at my waist.

“Dagger……?”

I placed my hand onto my waist.

＜Dagger＞ was still here.

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The waist bag that carried the Magic Stone was still here.

＜Goddess’s Dagger＞ was also here.

……However, only the sheath was here.

“……”

In the location where the handle should be, only air passed through my fingers.

Saaaaa, the blood receded from my face at a terrifying speed.

Looking at me, who was panicky searching around my waist, Eina-san also expressed an ＜It can’t be＞ expression.

——＜Goddess’s Dagger＞ was gone.

My face turned pale.

“IT’S LOSTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTT!?”

× × ×

Walking forward in an alley.

Compared to the spacious and bustling shopping street in the Main Street Area, this was an utterly narrow path.

Looking upwards, the sky that was cut into pieces by brick houses was also very narrow.

Underneath the thick cloud that was dyed yellowish-orange, this path seemed to be even darker. It gave off a feeling that the sun had never shone down at this place before. The black cat lied down onto of the crude garbage field and looked at the golden rays shining down. *Meow*. Then, it swiftly escaped.

Patapata, the gentle footsteps echoed around the surroundings.

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She heading forward with no hesitation as if she was already familiar with this labyrinth-like complex road which crosses over. After passing a few more corners, she soon saw the building that was her destination.

On this slightly empty land, a single shop stands alone. Although it wasn't clear if this was a really old shop, it did give off such an atmosphere.

On top of the wooden constructed building, there was a mottled sign hanging in front of the shop, which was slightly tilted.

Pushing open the door to enter the shop, the bitter sound of the doorbell entered the ears.

"Ohoh, it is you again"

"Please"

A bald gnome, who sported a long white beard, lifted its head from the information report he was reading.

Although he was wearing a red cap, you would still know that he had no hair.

Without saying anything, she placed the dagger on top of the counter.

"Ah, this time you brought a strange item again"

After adjusting the position of his glasses, he carefully looked at it, then he said "wait for a bit", and the owner stood up. After watching the hunched figure disappear into the depths of the shop, she began to

look at the various antiques that decorated the shop. Towards the many colorful gems inside a window display, she spat out a sigh.

Earlier than expected, the Gnome owner returned.

It was rare for him to reveal a frowning expression.

“What is this? Did you pick this up from the garbage dump nearby?”

“What……”

“No matter how I press it or pull on it, it cannot cut anything. It doesn’t look like there is a special ability either. I really don’t know what this thing is used for……This blade seems to be dead”

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Looking down at the pitched-black dagger that was placed onto the counter, he scratched his beard as if he did not know what to do with it. Then the Gnome owner concluded that <This was truly garbage>.

“It is rare that you would actually bring such a thing over”

“P…Please wait a moment, it should not……”

“Although you say that, I shouldn’t let a regular customer go back empty handed……Perhaps I can decorate it on that wall? How does 30 Varisu sound?”

“……I’ll come back again!”

“Oh ho, I look forward to your next visit……However, those unreadable text that was distorted like earthworms, I feel that his old man had seen it before……”

Her shoulder was trembling and rudely pulled open the door.

She returned once again to the alley, *patapata,* the footstep sounds were even more crude compared to when she was coming.

30 Varisu? The same price as the potato croquettes that the mobile kiosk were selling?

Don’t play around, this is a high-class product that could even easily cut through the hard shell of Monsters. This top-class weapon should

have the value of 3

luxury suites and still have money remaining.

Then I thought for a while, the owner should not be acting like a fool. However, a few days ago, he had given a satisfactory appraisal price. It can't be that his brain broke down in just a few days.

His appraisal technique were genuine. Even the guild employees cannot compare with him.

Another appraiser that could match him, I have at least never heard of one in this town.

(Why……?)

She looked at the dagger held in her hand.

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The blade without any brilliance. In the center of the dagger, exquisite engravings were written in a complex path, from the tip to the hilt, it seemed to be pitched-black as if it merged with the darkness of the path.

It showed such a rotten-like dark color, no matter what, there was still a feeling that something was wrong.

Before, it was obviously shining a bright purplish-blue light and was even able to leave a silver-white path in the air.

(If only it had the < Ήφαιστος> engraving……If only I had the sheath……) As long as I was able to obtain that unshakable evidence, then even if it was garbage, it will still be bought at a high price.

Sheath. The sheath is necessary. Looking at the dull black blade, she concentrated on thinking.

I must change the preplanned schedule. Even though it might be risky, I must have contact with him again……

"Sorry, Seal. Asking you to help me carry the items"

"Ah, it's no big deal……Ryuu, do you always walk this path?"

“Yes. As long as you’re able to grasp the route, you will save a lot of time by taking this path. There is no need for Seal to worry about it”

“I am not talking about this point……”

People were coming in front. An elf and a human. Both of them were carrying paper bags. Looking closely, with apple as the main item, it was filled with fruits and vegetables that seemed to be crammed into the paper bags.

Immediately avoiding their gaze, she swiftly hid the dagger inside her sleeves.

While she was surprised that there were actually people that pass through this secluded alley, she naturally allowed them to pass by her side.

“——Please wait a minute, the Hobbit over there”

A voice that did not allow her to argue attacked her from behind.

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She could not help but stop her footsteps. Then, cold sweat spread around and enveloped her entire back.

Why did she call out to me. It can’t be, this unbelievable idea appeared at the corner of her mind.

“Can you let me see the dagger that is tucked inside your sleeves”

Her heart seemed to be completely speechless.

“R…Ryuu?

“……Is there a reason why?”

“It seems to be an item from an acquaintance. If it is possible, I wish to confirm it”

What kind of vision do you have, she could not help but wanting to yell out.

“Unfortunately this is my own item. You must have seen wrong”

Not giving her the opportunity to refute, she left after speaking.

Refusing her request and attempting to leave this place.

“Bring it out”

The scene seemed to be nervous to the extent that the sound of the air was creaking.

“……!?”

“A person with a weapon engraved with <Sacred Text>, I only know of one”

It was as if there was an ice blade placed against her neck. Even her toes seemed to be frozen.

There was no need to look. You would still understand that the elf girl was currently angry. The surrounding was filled with this kind of pressure.

She did not look back. She also did not wish to look back.

“Please don’t move”

She was unable to even bite down her teeth. Her breathing began to tremble. Her heart seemed to be jumping as fast as if it was popping out of her ribs.

The footstep sounds were quickly approaching. The space between them could not be called as a distance.

If that’s the case, there is no need to care that much. Just take a step and then another step, just escape first.

She desperately inserted strength into her knees that were about to break down, and at the moment when the other person’s foot left the ground, she kicked off from the ground and headed to the crossroad.

“I warned you”

A powerful impact attacked her arm at the moment she was about to enter the corner.

“Iguu!?”

The apple.

The apple exploded.

The red fruit directly hit the left arm that hid the dagger, turned into debris and scattered away. The impact was too strong.

“It would be better if I use more strength towards the abdomen”

“____“

The dagger also fell out from her sleeve, so she turned around and looked to the rear.

The elf had sky-blue eyes and a calm light emerging from it. Then she lifted her leg behind substantially and was currently looking at her.

So that was it. She, herself, was the ball. Don’t joke around.

In a hairsbreadth, the leg kicked out in front, and hit the abdomen just like what was announced in advance.

91

“FUGYAAAAA～～”

× × ×

“W…What?”

I was currently running at the guild headquarters located at the North-West Main Street Area.

A sharp impact sound echoed from the nearby alley.

In order to confirm that ＜Hestia’s Dagger＞ did not fall out during the path, Bell was currently searching on the route that he came back. But after hearing that unnatural commotion, he stopped.

The surrounding demi-human also imitated the same action as Bell —— In the next instant, from an alley, a large number of cats rushed out. Bell widened his crimson eyes to its limits.

Meow~ Meow~! It was a powerful torrent of cats that was pitifully escaping for an unknown reason. One by one, they passed through the legs of the pedestrians, causing the enter street to be forced into a chaotic state. Bell, who was steaming with sweat, looked at this scene, and a person approached the exit of the alley.

After probing around and looking at the situation inside the alley, suddenly, a petite figure emitted a large sound and fell in front of his toes.

“L…Lili!?”

“F…Fuu, ah……”

The figure that unexpected appeared was completely shaken, Bell kneeled down beside Lili.

“Hey, what is it!? What happened!?”

“T…This voice……Bell-sama?”

92

The petite body trembled slightly, Lili, like a newborn deer who was lying on the ground with both hands and legs, instantly revealed a tense expression, but it was soon replaced with a stiff smile.

“Actually, a violent woman……No, I was attacked by a wild dog……”

“A…Are you alright!?”

“Looks like I survived……”

Although the cream-colored robe could not hide anything, but Lili seemed to have suffered a serious injury. Bell first lifted her up and brought her to a location that was right in front of the alley.

Did I bring a potion, just when Bell was panicky about to reach into the small poach beside his thigh,

“I can’t believe that I actually let him escape……”

Zaaa, following the moaning sounds, Ryuu, from the elf race, appeared from the alley.

“It is Ryuu-san again! W…What on earth happened?”

“Ahhh, perfect. Actually, your……”

After saying up to this point, she noticed the powerless Lili on the floor and instantly narrowed her eyes.

Lili, just like a kitten, trembled, and was muttering something, and placed her hand on top of her hood that she was wearing.

“Cranel-san, please move away”

“Eh, W…Wait a minute!?”

“Hiiiiya～!”

Pushing away Bell, Ryuu stretched out her hand towards the robe, and lifted the hood without any hesitation.

93

What appeared in her eyes was a big eyes and fluffy, thick chestnut colored hair.

There were also animal ears. Staring at Lili, who exposed a fearful expression, Ryuu only said “I’m sorry”, this kind of apology, and quickly put down the hood.

“W…What are you doing! Lili, are you okay!?”

“Y…Yes……”

“Sorry, I recognized the wrong person. Seems like my actions were too rash”

What was the situation? Bell was somewhat confused because of the sudden act.

While supporting Lili, who was gently sliding towards the ground, he looked back and forth from the alley and Ryuu multiple times.

Quickly, the alley issued a *patapata* sound again, and Seal appeared while carrying two paper bags.

“R…Ryuu～! You can’t treat food like that! Mama will be angry!?”

“If that’s the case, then I will be very troubled……”

“About that, can you please explain the current situation……”

“Ah, Bell-san”

Good day, Seal politely bowed down towards him, Bell could only interact by saying “Ahhh, you too……”

Ryuu, who was temporarily quiet and was watching the interaction between the two of them, soon questioned Bell directly.

“Cranel-san. Did you bring that black dagger today?”

“Ah, right!? You two, did you see a dagger that was completely black from top to bottom!?”

Looking at Bell, who seemed to have remembered and began to panic, Ryuu and Seal exchanged a gaze.

After Ryuu turned her gaze back to Bell’s body, she pulled out a simple dagger from her arms.

94

“Is this it?”

“——UWAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA!!”

Bell’s cry seemed to completely resound through the evening sky.

Hearing this large sound that could scare off others, various females from other races all unanimously shrunk back their shoulders.

Even Ryuu-san, who was usually calm, also widened her sky-blue eyes.

“Thank you!! Really, thank you!!”

“……Cranel-san, about this, I am very troubled. This kind of thing should not be done to me, but should be done to Seal, who is next to me……”

“Ryuu, what are you saying!?”

Bell, who was almost in tears, *gashi*, used his two hands to wrap around Ryuu's smooth white hands. He quickly approached, revealing a childish crying face, and she looked away unlike usual.

Hearing the cry from Seal, Bell, *goshi goshi,* rubbed his face and received the pitched-black dagger.

"Ah, that's good……Kami-sama, sorry, I will absolutely never lose it again……"

"Lose……?"

Bell held the dagger to his forehead and uttered an oath, that garbage seemed to have recovered its feeling and was dyed a purplish-blue light again.

It had turned back from a simple piece of metal to ＜Hestia's Dagger＞.

Gyo, Lili originally large eyes became even wider.

"Sorry, really. Where did you find this dagger?"

"Yes, in fact a Hobbit was holding it"

"Hobbit?"

Towards Ryuu's answer, Bell was stunned.

The beastman girl that was standing nearby seemed to be nervous underneath her hood.

"Could it be, just now……"

"Ahhh, Although I was chasing after the Hobbit earlier, but it seemed like he escaped……That was why I suspected her, who was here. It was my mistake."

"Mistake, could it be……?"

"Yes. She seemed to be a dog person. And the Hobbit that I was chasing after was a male"

Bell, who had finished listening to the explanation, finally expressed an “I see”

expression towards the whole incident. However, on the other hand, Lili revealed a mixed expression of being tired and being relieved.

“Is there a male Hobbit nearby? Do you remember?”

“No, I can’t remember anything……”

“Then, that Hobbit picked up the thing you lost. It was lucky that I had seen your dagger yesterday in the alley. Because it was a slightly special dagger, so I was able to recognize it by looking at it just for a bit”

“Ahhh, so that’s it”

While Bell was talking with Ryuu, Lili always seemed to be in a bad mood.

Seal seemed to quietly observe Lili through the gap between the two paper bags she was carrying.

Soon, Ryuu used the excuse of that they are still shopping as a reason to say goodbye. Bell, once again, thanked the two of them. Ryuu nodded with an unchanging expression, while Seal claimed that she did nothing and gave a wry smile.

Then, Bell, in order for them to enter the alley again, moved away. At this moment.

Seal, slowly moved her mouth near Lili’s ears.

96

“——Don’t get too carried away okay?”

“!!”

Zoku, goosebumps appeared all over Lili’s body.

Her petite body swayed pitifully.

Seal seemed to stand up as if nothing had happened and returned back into the alley with Ryuu, who had a puzzled expression.

“Lili, what did Seal-san say to you just now?”

“N…Nothing……About that, Bell-sama?”

“What?”

“Those people, who are they?”

“They are employees in a bar. Inside ＜Mistress of Abundance＞. It’s also considered a rather famous shop. Does Lili know it?”

“……Bell-sama”

“Eh?”

“Absolutely never bring Lili there, please……”

Looking at Lili, who was smiling through her tears, Bell could only “Eh, ahh, yes……?”reply like that. Looking at her, who had an expression that seemed to describe her having a unstable mental state, quietly shed sweat.

Shrouded under the sunset, this Main Street area seemed to have finally become quiet, Bell and Lili temporarily shared a strange atmosphere.

× × ×

The following day.

97

Lili and I rushed into the dungeon early in the morning. Under the

phosphorescence ceiling that was similar to the Magic Stone Lamps that were sold above ground, the two of us steadily reached the soil ground of the 1st floor.

In the end, I still hired Lili as a Supporter.

After carefully thinking about it, while blocking off the suspicions I had in my heart, I followed my own feelings and readily selected this choice. Kami-sama also agreed. Since we had come this far, there was no need to be confused.

Lili and I did not set a specific deadline and exchanged a team member contract, then until today.

“……Bell-sama?”

“Eh?”

“That dagger, where did you hide it……?”

“Nnnn, in order for me to not lose it again, I hid it together with the sheath inside my hand armor. Because there was a storage space in it.”

“I…Is that so……”

Towards Lili, who bowed her head in disappoint, I tilted my head.

From the beginning, Lili did not seem to have any spirit. Although she was still smiling, she was lifeless. What happened?

“……Bell-sama, once again, thank you for hiring Lili. Because I do not wish to be abandoned by Bell-sama, Lili will work hard”

“What abandon, I will absolutely not do such things. Moreover, there are no other Supporters that I know of aside from Lili”

“That’s great……Just joking, Lili does not believe that Bell-sama will do such a thing. Because Bell-sama seemed to be surprisingly gentle.

Looks like I was still not used to it, this sense of distance.

Although Lili originally was not that reserved, but gentle huh. I do not know why, but it seems to give me a tingly feeling.

98

“Bell-sama, may I inquire what is the schedule for today?”

“Nnnn, today I also plan to go to the 7th floor. Then I plan to stay until evening. Is there any problems for Lili?”

“If that is what Bell-sama decided, then Lili will obey. However, is this alright?

After all, Lili is only a Supporter, and cannot help as a fighting force.

It may become a situation where Bell-sama will have to continuously fight?"

"No problem. After all, I was usually fighting by myself, and today I allowed Kami-sama to update my accumulated <Status>"

It was not because of a playful manner that I had explored the dungeon everyday by myself.

But thanks to fighting alone, I've already gotten used to long battles. Also, Eina-san had also taught me properly. Adjusting my pace was one of my rare strengths that I was proud of.

More importantly, after receiving the updated <Status> that Kami-sama handed to me, I should not lose to the Monsters on this floor. Truthfully, I was eager to try out the strength I had right now.

The growth rate of my <Status> had not changed from before. I'm afraid that my current condition was perfect.

……Only that, I do not know why Kami-sama's mood worsened when she saw my perfect condition's <Status> improved rapidly……In the end, why is it.

"Compared to that, it may create a bigger burden to Lili, right? If loot continues to drop, the luggage will become heavier and heavier……"

I looked at Lili, who was beside me. That petite body was only up to the height of my abdomen. It must be extremely difficult to walk around the dungeon while carrying that much luggage.

"Please do not worry, Bell-sama. After all, Lili is also granted a <God's Grace>.

Unless the luggage is rather large, then it is completely not worth mentioning"

I also believe that must be the case……But in the end, I was still not able to explain.

99

Lili's backpack was larger than the standard size. Even before we began to recover items, it was already filled.

“Also, Lili has a Supportive Skill. Even if there is an accident, it should not affect my transporting operations”

“Ahhhh! Lili had already gotten a Skill!?”

Amazing! Envious! I did not try to conceal these feelings as I cried out.

To my surprise, Lili only shook her head with a wry smile.

“It is only true that I have one, but it is a useless skill. It is not that kind of <Grace> that Bell-sama is thinking about, oh?”

“However, that is already good. Unlike me, who still do not have a single skill……”

I heard that because <Skill> and <Magic> was different, there was no limit to the window. As long as the <Experience> conditions were met, then you will be able to master a number of them. I had unintentionally overheard that there exist Adventurers who have more than 5 (!) Skills. Even if it was just like Lili had said that it was a useless skill, but as long as there are no negative effects, then it was still better than not having one.

“I am really jealous. Aren’t Skill and Magic really difficult to obtain right? I also do not have Magic……Ah, while we’re at it, it can’t be that Lili also obtained Magic right?”

“……Unfortunately, Lily also have not obtained Magic. I’ve heard that many people will never be able to see their own magic during their life, so Lili is probably also in this kind of situation”

That was true. Even the Magic inside <God’s Grace> was something that only a few would get out a tens of thousands of people. But in the end, Magic was still nothing but a possibility, there seems to be many people who did not obtain this possibility.

When I was young, I had often been immersed in books about heroes. I

daydreamed myself using multiple magics. Because I had these fantasies before, I

had hoped that such a terrifying thing will not happen……Just like this, towards my imagination that I had hated and trembled slightly, it

was noticed by Lili.

As long as you are not the companion of the same <Familia>, the act of referring to the other's <Status> contents was considered to be rude and was strictly prohibited. There was no exception, even if the person was bound by contract.

It was obvious if you carefully think about it. After all, a person's information about their <Status> is said to be that person's lifeline.

I, who heard the reply, began to deeply reflect my idiotic speech.

"Also, is it really enough to just pay the advanced payment for the contract?"

While I searched for the presence of Monsters, I asked about the contract's contents again to Lili.

When we were performing the contract ritual at Babel earlier, I was told this by Lili. The reward would be a part of the revenue earned through exploring the dungeon.

I, at any rate, seemed to be standing at the side of the employer. I still need to have some pride……

"Ahah, it's okay. Bell-sama did not form a party with another, so when we are dividing it, it will not be very cumbersome……And"

And? I took advantage and asked.

Lili, changed her cheerful attitude that she always had……In the depths of her bangs, a cold gaze emerged from it.

"……And, this way, it will be more convenient for Bell-sama, right?"

"Eh?"

Following the words of the unfinished sentence, there was a bit of sarcasm and a somewhat self-mocking gaze.

I do not know why Lili used such a gaze to look over here, and I panicked.

Then before a second passed, Lili's revealed a smile again, as if nothing had happened, and showed over her usual joyful atmosphere.

"Then let's go faster. As long as Bell-sama works hard and allow Lili's revenue to increase, then there is no issues!"

"Nnnn, Yes……"

It will be more convenient for me……?

In order words, I will not pay Lili, is that it?

Or is there another meaning?

I really do not understand. What is Lili trying to say.

Since I'm not her, I had no clue about what that child was thinking or hiding.

——You are also the same as the other Adventurers.

It feels that this was how Lili's eyes commented on me.

× × ×

"Eina, Eina"

"Eh?"

Inside the counter of the guild headquarters, Eina was currently working. Her female colleague, who was also responsible for receiving visitors, began to talk with her.

What? She used her eyes to inquire this, she said "Look quickly, Look quickly", and pointed to a certain direction.

Her gaze followed the direction of the finger……In front of the gold exchange, a guild employee was currently in a fierce quarrel with an Adventurer.

"Look quickly, it's happening again. It's a <Soma's Familia> Adventurer again"

“……”

Eina reflexively frowned.

She didn’t try to deliberately listen, but the angry roars emanating from that direction came over.

“Only worth 12000 Varisu!? Don’t joke around, are you blind!”

“Bastard, how long do you think I’ve worked in this career! My eyes can’t be mistaken!”

Eina understood that it was a dispute based around the contents of the gold exchange.

Actually this kind of scene was actually not that surprising. Adventurers are using their lives as chips to enter the dungeon. They will mostly have an expectant mood when heading to the gold exchange. If the price was lower than what they had expected, then they will definitely raise their voice and strongly refute it. This was also forgivable.

The guild was already used to dealing with this kind of situation. The appraisal employees at the gold exchange are all carefully selected to have the most guts and courage. Currently, they were also yelling at a volume that did not lose to the Adventurer.

Yes, this type of scene was already common.

“Did you even properly appraise the loot as well!? Hey, go check it again! Quickly, It should not be this, It should not be this little……?”

However, this trouble was caused by the <Soma’s Familia> again. This abnormal scene was quickly becoming common for them.

The core members of <Soma’s Familia> purposely finding faults with the gold exchange’s assessment was already too numerous to count. It happens

continuously every day. Towards the repeated yellings, even the appraisal employees did not withdraw.

They will normally raise a claim, which is <Give me more money> and only this point.

It was an unusual and incredible dedication to money.

Just by looking at it, you will feel the chills. That was how strong their desire for money was.

“Nnnn～, being stared at by the eyes that seem to wish to rip out your eyes, disgusting! It is lucky that I am not responsible for the people in ＜Soma’s Familia＞～”

“……”

Eina could not help but reveal a bitter expression to her human friend, who was freely expressing her opinion.

Although Eina had never acted as an adviser for the Adventurers in ＜Soma’s Familia＞, but it has gotten to the point where she couldn’t keep out of their affairs.

“Damn it, if this is it……Only this little……!?”

Looking at the Adventurer, who held his head with both hands and left, from a distance, Eina, herself, also held onto her forehead as if she was enduring a headache.

(Looks like it was still too early, right……)

× × ×

The existence of a Supporter like Lili was dramatic.

First, because she was carrying the backpack, it wasn’t necessary for me to transport my rewards back to the ground level. I was able to stay in the dungeon for longer periods of time.

Every time I explored and entered a new floor, it will also mean that the repeated distance between the dungeon and gold exchange will also increase (This also means that the time I can spend in the dungeon will also be shortened). As the floor achieved increased, my revenue should also increase, this was not always the case.

In order words, it was the time loss.

Today, this problem was beautifully solved.

Thanks to Lili, it was no longer necessary for me to equip the heavy backpack. My body had become lighter and it began to show off its talent on the 7th floor. The amount of monsters that I hunted, even I do not know how many I killed.

The instant the enemy appeared in front of my eyes, I would swing my dagger.

Then Lili will swiftly recover the Magic Stone and the randomly appearing Loot.

This was the result.

The amount of money that I earned from the gold exchange in the guild was —— “ “……” ”

Towards the opening of the flaxen bag, Lili and I placed our foreheads together and looked inside.

The scene that was seen through the wide opening was ……Coins Coins

Coins Coins.

Countless number of coins, it can be said that it was extremely crowded in the overly narrow bag.

It was dazzling.

“ “ 26000 Varisu……” ”

The two of us lifted our head together from the bag and looked at each other at an extremely close range.

The next instant.

“ “YAAAAAAAAA ————————!!” ”

We both jumped out while cheering!

“Amazing, Amazing! Even though there obviously wasn’t that many Loot, just by Bell-sama himself was able to earn more than 25000 Varisu!!”

“WAAA, WAAA, WAAA! Is this a dream! It is reality right!? Actually

being able to earn this much money in one day……This is also thanks to Lili!”

Hooray for Supporter!

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“Don’t say such foolish words, Bell-sama. Although this is related to the type of monster and the Loot, a 5-man party of Level 1s may spend an entire day and still not be able to earn 25000 Varisu. In other words, Bell-sama was more productive than them by himself!”

“No, you see, isn’t there a saying about how if a rabbit is praised, then it will also be able to climb a tree! It is that one, that one!”

“Although Lili do not fully understand what Bell-sama is trying to say, this is your glory! Bell-sama is amazing! We should continue to strive for better results!!”

“You’ve praised me too much Lili!”

Although the excitement seemed to become more and more intense, but we still couldn’t stop.

Even though we were not at a bar, but the two of us continued to laugh and smile.

Because it was night had already fallen, so the simple canteen in Babel had no other Adventurers aside from us. The others must have entered a variety of bars.

Ya~, I clapped my hands against Lili, who was standing up on a chair, our excitement had reached its climax.

“……Then, Bell-sama, it is about time to split the rewards?”

“Ah, yes!

Doba, I handed 13000 Varisu to Lili.

“…….Eh?”

“Ahhh, if that is the case, then perhaps I can normally let Kami-sama eat delicious food…….”

Holding my fist, a scene emerged from my mind.

I will finally able to pay back my debt of gratitude towards Kami-sama!

Although Lili's eyes suddenly became a dot, I did not care and continued to be immersed in my own imagination.

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"B…Bell-sama, this is……?"

"Your share, didn't we say so already! Ah, right! Since this doesn't happen often, why don't you come with me together to a bar? I know a very tasty shop!"

I invited her while I was in a good mood, but Lili widened her eyes and held her breath.

Ah, didn't she say that she did not wish to go to the <Mistress of Abundance> before?

But, forget it, it should be okay! Only for today!

"Hurry, let's go Lili!"

"B…Bell-sama!"

We must hurry for the our own good! I, who was swiftly packing up, Lili called out.

Eh? Revealing an incredulous expression, she gently moved her thin lips.

"……Y….You're not going to monopolize it…….Bell-sama, did not think about it?"

"Eh, why?"

I, who felt incredulous deep down, asked back.

Towards my response of asking back a question, Lili was loss for words.

"If it was by myself, I will certainly not be able to get such a result. It

was because Lili was here right?”

So, thank you, I happily said.

From now on, please take care of me, I added another sentence.

Being able to encounter Lili was really great, I revealed a smile.

“……”

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“Lili, hurry up, let’s go?”

I stretched out a hand towards Lili, who suddenly lifted up her head to look at me.

Towards the outstretched hand, she only just stared at it, then she slowly overlapped it with her own hand.

“……Strange”

That whisper, I completely missed it.

108

[Bell Cranel]

Affiliation: [Hestia's Familia]

Race: Human

Class: Adventurer

Achieved Floor: 7th Floor

Weapon: ＜Goddess's Dagger＞

＜Dagger＞

Money: 18900 Varisu

[Status]

Lv. 1

Strength: D 591

Endurance: G 233

Dexterity: C 607

Agility: B 702

Magic: I 0

＜Magic＞

[ ]

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＜Skill＞

[Single-Minded Pursuit]

□ Accelerates Growth.

□ Effects last as long as his feelings are unchanged

□ Effects are determined by the strength of his feelings

[Equipment]

＜Rabbit Armor MK-II＞

□ The first defensive series of ＜Hephaestus's Familia＞ affiliated Welf Crosso's creation.

□ The name of this creation was once called that, and due to an incident, it had its name changed. The reason why it was placed in the box was because of the incident. It gently left an impact on Bell's heart.

□ Using the Drop Loot ＜Metal Rabbit's Fur＞ as the material. Bell had once said that it was ＜Extremely Light＞

□ It can be said that the defense of it was extremely high to the extent that the ＜Hephaestus's Familia＞'s management team also gave an excellent evaluation.

＜Jade Supporter＞

□ Selling price of 7700 Varisu.

□ A present given by Eina. It is the same color as her eyes, which is jade color.

□ It is a hand armor that has the same purpose as a shield. Although its durability is lower than a pure shield, but it is very light.

□ It uses its long length to compensate for the narrow width.

It is able to store dagger and short sword.

間章 嗚呼、女神さま

Interlude

Alas, Goddess-sama!

The color that covered the sky was gradually turning from a bright dark red color into the deep blue color of evening.

Western Orario. The West Main Street was composed of many employees that were coming home back from work or a party of Adventurers that had just finished their dungeon exploration. Right now, it was also the most bustling time period that happens within a day.

“F…Finally survived today……”

Mixed with the crowd of people, Hestia staggered forward on the road. She was staggering towards her home as if she was trying to escape from the skyscraper in the center of Orario.

She was currently returning home after completing her work at the ＜Hephaestus’s Familia＞ Babel branch.

“That person, Hephaestus, shouldn’t it be possible to be slightly merciful…….”

Even though it was because she had to repay money. It was still extremely cruel to Hestia, who was now forced to experience the bits and pieces of a busy work for the first time, since she had always lived on the basis of a lazy life.

She did not know whether it was due to her Goddess friend’s orders, but the children working at that branch had no respect towards a Goddess. It was to the extent that it can be said that they would not restrain themselves while ordering her.

Towards the job that was given to her, she repeatedly issued a sigh.

The wish of Hephaestus, who wished to correct Hestia’s personality of wanting to rely on others from the root, could be seen from here.

“Ah, I really want to see Bell-kun……!”

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Hestia, who had her mind and body completely drained due to the continuous days of hard work, recalled the matter about her own family’s dependent.

It had already become a daily activity during this time to look forward to gently receiving the boy that had come back from the dungeon ——Thus she would often leave early from work——, but today the position was completely reversed.

She really wanted to quick jump into his chest and act like a spoiled child. Hestia, who was fantasizing about these things, dragged her heavy body and sped up to return home.

“——Nnnn!?”

Among the crowd in the Main Street Area, she saw a thing that looked like a rabbit from the corner of her eyes, Hestia almost reflexively looked back.

Mixed in the middle of the crowd with many races, a familiar figure would appear for some time and disappear again.

——It’s Bell-kun!

Hestia’s round eyes twinkled as she instantly noticed that body.

Perhaps he had finished his dungeon exploration and was preparing to go home. He was wearing his new defensive equipment and had his back facing her.

He was currently heading in the direction of their residence.

Hestia, like a fish that had just been returned to water, instantly recovered, took a step and prepared to approach Bell, who was in front of her——but in the next moment.

“!?”

A figure that was extremely close to Bell, that was covered by the crowd earlier and could not be seen, entered her view.

Its body was even smaller than Hestia, the big round robe was holding a backpack on the outside. Although it was difficult to judge from the back whether the gender or other details, but Hestia was certain that it was the same gender as her.

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If it was a male, they will wish to protect, and to protect that mysterious girl, he was currently stretching out his hand beside him.

Then, towards the girl he was looking at, Bell's appearance from the side was a kind smile.

—— *Gaan*! This shock pierced through Hestia's head.

To her, who was extremely fatigue both physically and mentally, this additional attack was equivalent to causing her to stop breathing. The boy, that was her final reliance, actually revealed such a happy to smile to a woman beside from her, and the scene, that seemed to be like heaven falling down to the ground, complemented each other. The amount of damage Hestia suffered was immeasurable.

This matter about how that this girl was the Supporter that he talked about in Babel, she had no chance to be aware of it. Hestia embraced a great sadness, staggered a few steps, then finally turned around and left.

× × ×

"——Listen to me, Miach! Bell-kun, he, Bell-kun is having an affair!"

Dan! , Banging the glass cup, that she had drained the wine in one attempt onto the table, Hestia cried out with tears.

In a pub that was built in an alley near the outskirts, slightly far away from the Main Street. Within the old, wooden and narrow space, most of it was occupied by Adventurers who were wearing crude equipment. The rowdy laughter and the inelegant conversations were issued everywhere.

Mixed among the Adventurers, who were drinking cheap wine, Hestia told the events that she had previously witnessed to the God that was sitting across from her.

“Affair? If that’s the case, we must care about it. However, I still can’t imagine the scene of Bell doing such a thing.”

Using a careful tone and issued a slightly muffled deep voice, the handsome male God, Miach, was currently nodded his head against Hestia’s complaints, while

voicing his own opinion. Wearing a worn and deformed robe, and without a strange feeling, he was integrated into this old renovated bar.

Hestia and Miach are the lowest of the lowest —— The God of <Familia>’s that are near the bottom, having a similar identity, so their relationship ran quite deep.

The <Miach Familia> who creates and sells potions and the <Hestia’s Familia>’s relationship was also quite close. The Gods also have a certain degree of understanding about the members of these two factions.

Even though he met Hestia by chance on the Main Street and was forcibly dragged here to accompany her for drinking wine, Miach still did not reveal a trace of disgust on his face and listened carefully to her words.

“I personally saw it! The moment that Bell-kun was holding hands with the girl he had a good relationship with! Isn’t that a conclusive evidence that cannot be more conclusive!?”

“Bell may also have Bell’s own circumstances, and there must be a circle that he interacts with. I feel that saying that it is a conclusive evidence is still too early……And anyways, it’s weird to say that it is an affair when you are not a couple or lovers.”

The last half of the sentence did not enter Hestia’s ears as she drained a glass of wine.

Looks like today she’ll get drunk and act crazy again. Miach shook his blue hair and deeply sighed.

“Damn! Who is that girl anyways!? Bell-kun is **MINE**, AHHHHH!”

“Just like that. That speech, even if you are his Goddess, it is still too outrageous.

Bell isn't anyone's"

"I know, ahhh, this kind of thing! I only want to say it! No, it is that I only wanted to say it before!!"

"Are you already drunk?"

"Not even close!"

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If I don't get drunk, how will I pass my life, said Hestia, who seemed to be chugging the wine as she poured it. Once she noticed that the table was filled with glass cups and beer bottles, *bon*, the moment she thought that she had to look from afar again……Then her eyes suddenly became moist and she shouted.

"WAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA!! Bell-kun, Bell-kun, Bell-kun,

Bell~kun~! I beg you, please don't disappear in front of me

AHHHHHHHHHHHHHH —!!"

"Hey, hey! You're too loud Hestia!"

Facing the specially loud cry that overshadowed all the commotions nearby, Miach was also suddenly overwhelmed and was at a loss on what to do. The other customer's gaze also stared at Hestia, and bombarded the two of them.

"If you make me smile, even if you want me to live in the sewers, I am still willing!! That is how much I like you! Frankly speaking, I want to sleep together with you on the same bed and affectionately stick to your chest and go *GuriGuri* and rub my face on you, ahhhh!! If you smile slightly at me, then I'll be able to eat three breads continuously, ahhhh!"

Even Miach was stunned and could only watch.

"I love you, ahhhh, Bell~kun~!! ……Ehehe, even if it was once, I still wanted to say everything out about Bell-kun. Fufuu, I've said it all out…"

"It was lucky that the person involved isn't here. Shopkeeper, check

please”

Not being able to end her disillusion, Miach and the shop employee muttered as they walk. Hestia, who had a loose expression while lying on the table, was currently foolishly laughing happily at something.

Towards this posture, Miach murmed, *YareYare*, and tirelessly brought the drunk goddess and headed on the way back home.

“Miach. What about the bill there?”

“Nnnn. I paid it all.”

“Hey, hey, why such an outsider. At this time, we should split it evenly.”

116

“Nnnn. Didn’t you only bring 20 Varisu”

Towards the prolonged sounds of Hestia, Miach faintly replied. Placing her into a four wheel trolley, stacked with goods, and pushed it as if it was a baby carriage.

Heading towards the depth of the Main Street that was lit up by the light from the Magic Stone Lamp, the two Gods’ figures followed the dry sound of the wheel and gradually disappeared.

“Miach. Help me make an aphrodisiac. This way, I can make Bell completely entranced by me ——.”

“Nnnn. I’ll pretend that I’ve never heard that”

× × ×

“Nuaaaaaaaaaaaaaa……!?”

What hit her was a severe headache when she woke up.

Hestia, who was lying on the bed, was struggling with the sudden pain and groaned.

The ceiling that entered her eyes was a thing of her already familiar residence.

The time displayed on the clock hanging from the wall showed that it was currently early morning.

An entire night has passed since she had gone to drink with Miach. Currently Hestia was caught in a hangover state.

“A…Are you okay, Kami-sama?”

Bell stood close to the bed.

He held a glass of water in one hand, while looking very worried at Hestia.

“S…Sorry, Bell-kun, allowing you to see such a ugly sight……”

“How is it possible, of course it isn’t……About that, I heard yesterday from Miach-sama, so it really is?”

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“……Ahhhh, looks like I drank too much”

Hestia maintained her lying down posture while gently drinking a few sips, then she frowned.

Yesterday, Miach, who sent her back, left these meaningful words “I’m a bit tired.

Even if it is a little, please take care of her” and left straight away.

(I cannot remember anything at all……)

The memories of yesterday had completely vanished. What she had said or done.

After hearing the message from her God friend, she had a strong sense of unease.

A few days later, Hestia will be plunged into a dilemma of having a deep depression while facing Miach, who would have a silent expression of compassion.

“……Bell-kun, are you not going to the dungeon?”

“I cannot leave the Kami-sama today like this. So I prepared to rest

today.”

And he had already contacted the hired Supporter, Bell’s eyebrow drooped while he smiled.

Although she felt apologetic since she made Bell worried, but Hestia was still really happy. This way, they will be together for the entire day. And at this time, it was already given that she would not go to work today.

What rage from the Blacksmith Goddess. It is something to consider later.

“Kami-sama, this, are you able to eat it?”

“……I…It is slightly difficult. Bell-kun, can you feed it to me?”

“Ah, okay, I understand”

Bell used a spoon to scoop up the apple that was already cut into tiny pieces, and raised it near her mouth. Seeing this, Hestia, who was sitting on the body, was delighted and swallowed it with a blissful expression.

Probably because of the premise of taking care of her, Bell, who would usually be too shy and would absolutely not do such things, quickly accepted it for today.

While she was desperately trying to hide her own embarrassment, the figure of the

boy proceeded without any hesitation. Hestia still felt an incomparable feeling of happiness.

“Uu…Uuuuu…, my head……”

“K…Kami-sama?”

While she was saying this in a monotonous tone, Hestia suddenly tilted her body dramatically, her head descended down towards Bell’s chest. It was a posture that was as if she was being hugged by Bell.

Understanding clearly the conflicted state Bell was in, but even so, Hestia still rubbed her cheeks on his chest while they were being dyed red. His chest had the smell of a gentle forest. Then she hugged

tightly.

She had a tug o war with Bell, who had finally began to panic, which still lasted for some time.

“Nnnn……Then yesterday night you went to eat with the Supporter than you mentioned last time?”

“Yes. Because something happy happened yesterday……”

The time gradually passed, without knowing, it was already noon. Sitting on the bed, Hestia was full of interest while talking with Bell. By this time, the overnight drinking symptoms have already reduced by a lot.

After listening to the truth of the incident yesterday, she was temporarily at ease; But once she recalled the intimate scene of them holding hands, she could not help but allow her fantasies to run wild.

……Moreover, remembering about the soaring growth when she last updated

his <Status>, she felt that she couldn’t not care about it. The boy’s thoughts were still accumulated towards that hateful golden-haired, golden-eyes female, while there was no progress in her own love between the two of them.

irst she should not worry about that <Sword Princess>, since there was a strong impulse of wanting to ask about the Supporter girl and get to the bottom of things.

Of course, this includes how she would treat her.

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Towards the girl that she had never met before, Hestia’s flames of jealousy were already gradually beginning to burn.

“That must be nice, you. Since you must have eaten some good food together with that Supporter yesterday, then you must have been happy, right? Ah～ Ah～, I also wanted to go”

Subsequently, Hestia, who suddenly began to mock the situation, her childishly turned her face to one side. Towards this moment, Bell, who reacted by shrinking his shoulder and nervously swallowed, she did

not have the chance to see it.

Bell was trembling restlessly at this period of time, then he seemed to have decided and said.

“T…Then, why don’t we go? The two of us together, um, to eat a bit of luxury food……”

“……Ha?”

“A L…Luxurious meal or something……H…How does that sound?”

Looking at Bell, who had red cheeks and was desperately trying to suppress his shyness, Hestia froze.

She could not believe the things she heard in that moment.

“A…Actually, I earned a lot of money in yesterday’s exploration……! That, I wanted to show my gratitude to Kami-sama, I……!”

She was not listening to the words that appeared afterwards.

The invitation words that Bell had previously said, Hestia was constantly replaying it in her head.

(Could this be an invitation to a dateeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeee!?)

Can’t believe that Bell-kun would be the one to take the initiative!? And also a dinner!? Hestia was surprised.

Then shortly afterwards, she became ecstatic.

“Let’s wait until Kami-sama recover, next time……”

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“Let’s go today!!”

“Eh?”

“We’ll go, today!”

Gaba, suddenly throwing off the blanket, Hestia jumped down from the bed.

Bell was stunned at the scene.

“K…Kami-sama, your body……”

“Healed!”

This sentence was not a lie. The sudden passionate excitement made the strength within Hestia’s body grow rapidly.

Leaving the stunned Bell aside, Hestia quickly began the preparations for the date.

(——No, wait a minute)

Hestia, who suddenly stopped her action, lifted her collar and , *sun,* issued a sniffing sound.

Smelly. An alcoholic smell. What floated around was the smell of alcohol that was far from the identity of a goddess.

Gu, Hestia widened her eyes.

“Bell-kun, 6 o’ clock!”

“O…Okay……Huh?”

“We’ll meet at 6 o’ clock at the Amor Square on the South West Main Street Area!”

Being watched by Bell, who was sweating, Hestia took a bit of luggage and rushed out from her home.

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If you have to describe it with one word, then it would be a paradise.

“You, looks like it really became bigger, right?”

“It is impossible for Goddesses to grow……Huh, Hey, don’t rub around!”

The Lower World people ——If these children were present at the scene, they will most likely have a nosebleed and directly faint.

Hidden in the enveloping steam, the dazzling body lines, the voluptuous and ample body figure, and the naked body as if they were newly born, the beautiful Goddesses were currently generously

revealing everything.

This was indeed a heavenly paradise that all males would have surely fantasied about.

“Fufuuuu……This is really comfortable”

Arousing ripples, Hestia, who was soaked in the hot water up to her bare shoulders, muttered with a loosen expression.

The Sacred Bath. Just as its name suggests, it is the cleansing bath only allowed for Goddess.

The spacious bathroom was configured with a variety of different sizes bathing pools. There are also huge trees and naturals rocks here, creating it as if like in the nature. Because the decorated walls and pillars, that were carved from stone, were carved so delicately and dignified, it was extremely extravagant.

This large bath that was specifically for Goddesses was created and managed by the Guild for the Gods living in this city. From a small part of tax collected from each <Familia> ——Which also contained the meaning of reverencing the Gods ——It was the result of restoring their own entertainment facilities.

The male Gods’ bath and the female Goddesses’ baths are, of course, separate. The male Gods would rarely come here specifically though. And due to the low usage from males, when people talk about the Sacred Bath, it is not wrong to assume it was the Female Goddesses’ thing. It was once said that it was invaded by a perverted old male God before (Which had already become a legend), and from then on, the guild’s security measure were so strict that even a mouse would not be able to pass through.

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And just like the Goddesses nearby, that were naked and defenseless. Hestia, who was soaked deep in the hot water, also had her smooth skin dyed into a light pink color, *fufu*, and let off these heated breath.

“Ara, Hestia? It is really rare for you to come here”

“Ah……Ah, Demeter. Long time no see.”

Hestia, with a relaxed expression, said to the familiar Goddess that was approaching.

Demeter, this was what this Goddess was called, immersed her voluptuous body, hidden under a thick towel, into the hot water beside her.

“Unnn……Same as usual, such a huge chest”

“Isn’t yours also quite big”

Tataki, Hestia skilfully shot down the outstretched hand that was approaching her own boobs.

Due to the reaction effect, Demeter’s own twin valleys in front of her chest began to shake, the water also began to violently ripple.

“Then, what happened? You coming here, isn’t it the first time today?”

“Yes……”

Watching Demeter, who was currently fixing her fluffy honey-colored hair while asking, Hestia concealed her loosen expression.

Since this Sacred Bath requires a fee, she had never imagine before that she would specifically come here for a bath. But because she has a date with Bell now, Hestia decided to spend what was left of her little savings to wash herself.

She wanted to completely wash herself both, physically and mentally, from the stench of alcohol.

This was all for the date with Bell.

“After this, I made an appointment with someone else to go eat dinner. So I want to put more thought into it.”

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“……Could it be, the other person, is a male?”

“If I say yes, then what are you going to say?”

Towards the Goddess friend that was already in a stunned state before

she answered, Hestia revealed a surprised expression.

The sound of the water spraying, echoed everywhere from the small waterfall in the center of the bath. Demeter's already matured face seemed to shine brilliantly as if she was a child.

"Arararaaaa! That Hestia actually, with a man!! Ahhhhhhh, That… EVERYONE!"

"H…Hey hey?"

Facing the suddenly excited Demeter, Hestia was just aware of her own big mistake.

To the loudly echoing voice, the surrounding Goddesses all lifted their face, with a "what happened" face, and continuously approached…… Without Demeter saying the reason out completely, they, just like her, began to perk up.

"Hestia, with a man!?"

"What on earth happened?"

"Hestia, who did not welcome the males in Heaven, actually!"

"The Loli girl Hestia!"

"W…What on earth happened, could it be……"

"Quickly confess everything to us!"

Instantly, a barrage of attacks was launched at Hestia.

Even the unsightly behavior of jumping into a pool emerged, the mutual peach-colored skin were pushing and shoving at each other, and continued to approach Hestia.

"W…What. Is it really strange for me to have a relationship with a man?"

"You are wrong, Hestia. You, till now, didn't you always refused the courtship from the males?"

“Tied with the Goddess of Wisdom and the Goddess of Purity, one of the Big 3

Virgin Goddesses in Heaven”

“In short, we only want to know the origins of the person that successfully captured the impregnable citadel.”

Towards the noisy Goddesses, following Demeter, Hestia could not help but revealed a subtle expression.

Although she attempted to clarify that the Gods that attempted to seek a relationship, none were ever serious. However, this matter seemed to be a futile explanation towards the twinkling eyes of the Goddesses.

Even at this moment, the nature of Gods pursuing entertainment was still unfortunately in effect.

“……The other person is my <Familia>’s child. He is a human.”

Oooooo, this sound poured out from the surrounding Goddess. “As expected!” or “Did he provoke your desire to protect?”, these casual speculations and inquiries continued to fly out one after another.

“Won’t you be fooled? You shouldn’t be attracted to a strange male, right～”

“Don’t treat me as an idiot. Even I’m considered a God. I am still insightful when looking at people”

“Everybody knows, even if it’s a child, they will still conceal something towards the Gods”

“Then, what qualities of the child captured your heart?”

“……Should be, his character”

There wasn’t an exact moment, so while the whispering went around, Hestia thought again. If she had to say, it would be his innocence and his incurable stupidity.

After this had passed for a period of time and the questioning that have no signs of stopping, Hestia, who had no way out, prepared to

leave the bath. Considering that she would have to head back to prepare, it was almost time.

Ignoring the Goddesses who tried to stop her from standing up. Numerous water droplets, that were stuck onto the seemly perfect slender and petite body, gradually began to fall down, and they seemed to sparkle and twinkle through the projected rays of the sunlight that was reflected by the skylight. Her dark black hair that had not been tied up was still slightly moist, and while it was still moist, it was somewhat enchanting.

Just only for a moment, Hestia closed her eyes, and stood there.

It was just like a painting, towards the young Goddess's figure, which was quietly standing underneath the sun's rays. The others could only squint at the beautiful and dreamy scene.

"About that Hestia. Hestia, what do you like about that child?

At the very last, a Goddess raised her hand.

Hestia, who turned around and looked behind, gently revealed a slight smile.

"All of him, I like."

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Amor Square, after one more path that extends from the South-West Main Street, then she will arrive.

Within the Square's garden that was decorated with colorful paving stones, flowers were being cultivated, which was surrounded by a fence. It created a beautiful and enchanting atmosphere. The sunset had already disappeared, the sky was being covered by a layer of light dark, and the Magic Stone Lamps hung directly above emitted a light glow, hazily lighting up the entire square.

The time was before 6. Mixed among the intimate lovers sticking together, Bell, who stuck out, was currently huddling his shoulders and standing in front of a certain Goddess's statue.

"Bell-kun!"

“Ah……!”

Seeing Bell’s figure, Hestia quickly approached.

Bell, who had his name called out, revealed an eased expression, then instantly in the next moment, he blinked his eyes as if he was in disbelief.

Hestia had changed her hairstyle. Her hair that was always in twintails was put down, and flowed straight down from behind her. Her youthful appearance also gave off a bit of an adult-like feeling, and immediately stole away Bell’s gaze.

The hair ornament she used to tie her hair with was currently being worn like a bracelet around her wrist. The clothes that she was wearing was also her finest clothing. This was Hestia’s fully dressed appearance.

After Hestia, who was panting breathlessly, stopped in front of Bell, her cheeks were dyed red and she nervously asked.

“H…How is it, is it suitable? I slightly changed my appearance……”

“……Ah, yes, suitable, very suitable! Um, how should I say it, I should say that Kami-sama is more dignified than usual……Anyways, it means that it is very beautiful!”

While blushing, Bell desperately tried to use his poor vocabulary and praise Hestia.

Probably, these praises also included the side of respecting the Gods, but the beginning phrases leaked out were due to his own embarrassment. Indeed at that moment, Bell was fully absorbed in looking at Hestia.

Good, Hestia did a victory sign within her heart.

“I originally wanted to come earlier. Sorry Bell-kun. Did I keep you waiting?”

“N…No, I also just arrived.

As expected. He was trembling unnaturally.

Towards the dialogue that seems just like a real date, Hestia felt that as if her strength was currently flowing to her cheeks.

Even if she hates the developments later on, her chest still throbbed, and her emotions soared.

“Then what’s next Bell-kun? You have to protect me well tonight, okay?”

“Y…Yes”

Then he smiled and stretched out his hand, Bell’s leadership was about to be bestowed to her ——But right before this moment.

Suddenly, a commotion stirred up in a corner of Amor’s Square.

“Ah, found her…!?”

“Hestia is there!”

“In other words……The one next to her is!”

It was the Goddesses. Without exception, a group of beautiful females was currently heading here to launch a massive attack.

Next to the stunned Bell, Hestia widened her eyes to the very limits.

“Seizeddddddd!!”

“Ah~Eh~, it’s quite cute!?”

“So Hestia like this type of child”

“*Mu…Mubuuuuu*!?”

The wave of Goddesses instantly pushed Hestia away and swallowed Bell.

Numerous hands constantly pulled Bell’s body and alternately hugged him tightly inside their chest.

Within this heavenly cage that did not guarantee any breathing, Bell’s face instantly flushed and burned up.

“W…W…What……!?”

“Sorry, Hestia. We were still so curious about your child, thus we followed you over……Ahhhh, I can’t stand it, he really looks like a rabbit”

“Nnnnn ————, Nnnnnnnnn————————!?”

“B…Belll————kun————!?”

Hestia’s cries burst out.

Being tightly sandwiched by Demeter’s overwhelming boobs, that were unmatched compared to the other Goddesses, Bell’s life was already fading away like a lit candle in face of the wind. Every time Demeter’s hands lovingly stroke Bell’s hair, Hestia’s chest would feel a pull, and her eyes seemed to be leaking out bloody tears.

Her own dependent, under the curious fingers of other Goddesses, was currently being ravaged without mercy.

Then, just when Hestia’s mental state was about to collapse…

A ragged Bell, who had half of his body still engulfed by the Goddesses, appeared between the gaps.

“Kami…Sama……”

“A…Are you okay, Bell-kun!?”

“……I, already, have no more regrets…….”

Dogooo, towards Bell’s legs, Hestia kicked out with her toes.

“I’m very sorry……!!”

“Okay, we have to escape now!”

Forcibly pulling one of Bell’s leg, Hestia began to flee.

Taking advantage of the gap where the Goddess was frozen due to their prey disappearing, she escaped from Amor Square.

In order to get rid of the stubborn pursuit from the Goddess, Hestia and Bell were fleeing towards the center of the city.

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“Ah~Ah~, so that’s why I say Gods, these group of people!? They are all too faithful to their own desires!”

“Ha, Haha……!”

Next to Hestia, who was shouting loudly, Bell only gave a wry smile.

Even though they had finally gotten rid of the pursuit, they were currently located at West Main Street Area’s outskirts in a certain old clock tower. The brick constructed, single floor tower had already lost its function and the clock that could not issue a chime was currently hanging over their heads.

After hurriedly rushing into this clock tower in order to hide from the pursuit of the Goddess for a while, Hestia and Bell was finally able to obtain brief period of rest.

“It is already this late……Ha, since it was rare to have a date with Bell”

“D…Date?”

There was not much time before the date changes. While she was using her hand to comb back and forth the messy hair, which was because of running everywhere, Hestia let out a deep sigh.

Why is there so much trouble today, she let out a powerless sigh.

“Ah……K…Kami-sama, please look!”

“……?”

Bell issued a clear voice and pointed at a certain direction.

Just as Hestia turned around, what entered her gaze was the labyrinth’s city’s night scene that was like the stars shining brightly within the sky.

The numerous Magic Stone Lamp emitted different colors of light, and lit up the entire city.

Even in this dark night, the huge tower with white walls in the center was currently heading forward endlessly into the sky.

To this beautiful night scene that could be seen from the clock tower, Hestia's gaze was temporarily taken away. She wordlessly looked next to her, Bell, too, within his eyes, was staring at these bright lights as he watched the scene.

Soon, Bell, who noticed Hestia's gaze, had his cheeks filled with a gentle excitement. As if his own feelings were overflowing from his chest, he moved his lips to slowly weave out the words.

"That, Kami-sama……One day, let's go together again. Next time, we would, absolutely would"

"Bell-kun……"

"Until that time, I will work hard to save more money than now. Then we'll go to eat delicious food, drink tasty thing……Then, we'll come here together again"

"……"

"Today we were very lucky to see such a beautiful scene……That, we should come see it again, just the two of us"

That's why today looks like it wasn't in vain.

He was very happy to be able to come here together with his Goddess.

Bell seemed to encourage Hestia as he spoke. The words were not to comfort her, but rather to express the feelings from deep inside his heart.

Looking at the blushing face as if there was a fever, the carefree smile of the boy, Hestia felt that something inside her chest was currently throbbing. Then she quietly narrowed her eyes.

It was not like he was saying one thing, but meaning something else. This snow-like purity, and the incurable idiotic smile, instantly made her his prisoner.

Towards Bell, who made the memories of today as a promise for

tomorrow…….This Goddess felt that she was deeply in love with him.

“……I’ll look forward to that, Bell-kun?”

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“Yes”

She also let off a blooming smile, Hestia and Bell looked at each other and smiled.

Not long after, they would look at another direction and once again look at the scene outside of the clock tower. It was a time period that was silently committed to just the two of them.

Hestia, who moved swiftly and successfully, reduced the gap between Bell. Her cheeks became slightly red and the corner of her eyes also gently relaxed.

(I originally wanted to hear more about the things about that Supporter……Fine, I’ll forget about it just for today)

Hestia, who did not want to do anything that would destroy this atmosphere, stared out at the night scene in front of her eyes and thought.

While feeling the warmth from the close proximity of the boy, she smiled and closed her eyes.

The cool night wind blew past the hair ornament on her wrist, and the tiny bells were gently shaking.

第3章　魔法は膝枕を喚ぶ魔法

Chapter 3: Magic is a Magic that will Summon a Lap Pillow

A silver flash rushed past.

“Guooooooooooooooooooooooooooo!?”

The skeleton Monster ＜Spartoi＞ issued its dying screams as a silver trajectory was engraved in a straight line from the top of its head to between the legs.

On top of the bones that were based off a human, the Monster was covered by a armor-like bulging figure. It was proud of its sharp shape. On its hand, there were varieties of white bone weapons so that the figure was enough to directly call it a bone warrior.

Stuck within the range of ＜Deep Floor＞, it was equivalent to a strong Lv.4

Monster, yet it only took an instant for it to be killed.

“……”

The swordsman that released the attack, whichfelt like a cold night evoking into the depths of the heart. Swiftly, following the sound of the wind, lowered the tip of the rapier towards the floor.

Bones, Bones, Bones, Bones.

Within the current range of the field of vision, numerous bone fragments were scattered. These already unrecognizable white remains were undoubtedly the end of more than 10 Spartois,

Golden Hair and Golden Eyes.

A female with an appearance not inferior to the Gods, was currently standing in silence at the center of the Monster cemetery.

“In the end, she defeated it all by herself……”

“Even though if she struggled a bit more, then she would look more cute……”

To the grumblings of her companion, whether she was listening or not, the girl with long golden hair ——Aizu Wallenstein, silently placed her rapier back into its sheath and turned to their direction.

“Okay okay, Good work Aizu~! Did you bring recovery potion? Elixir? How about sharing Aizu’s favorite red bean, cream taste potato croquettes!?”

“No problem, Tiona. Thank you……I want the last one”

“Anyways, since there were no injury, there is absolutely no need for the recovery potion”

“No matter what, most of the Monsters have already been dealt with……What should we do next, Finn?”

“Nnnn…, shouldn’t we head back soon? Originally, today was just for fun.

However, since we stayed here for so long and Monsters will continue to emerge when we are heading back, it will be difficult to deal with. Riveria, your opinion?”

“It was currently at the 37th floor. In the depths of the dungeon that was called as the Deep Floor Area, a few members of the <Loki’s Familia> were currently exploring the dungeon. The members at the scene were not a lot. Within the team, including the Supporter, there was a total of 7 people. With Aizu Wallenstein at the top, the amount of First-Grade Adventurers was only 5 people.

Just as the word “Fun” described it, this was different than the <Expedition> that gathered the members of <Loki’s Familia> before. This time, it was a personal dungeon exploration activity between friendly companions.

Actually, it also had the purpose of wasting some time.

Being able to say words such as fun in the Deep Floor Area, where many

Adventurers never took a step inside, their strength belongs to another dimension.

“If this is the leader’s commands, then let’s do that……Everyone, time to retreat!”

The elf, Riveria, who was surrounded by an aloof atmosphere, shouted.

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The wheat-color skin of the Amazon sisters indicated their understanding. Aizu, who was holding carefully the broken fried potato croquettes, could not help but be depressed.

While heading to the depths of the dungeon, if you do not carefully manage the state of the food, then it will often have its drawbacks.

“Also, if Bate had also come this time, he would chatter nonstop, making others dislike him～. That kind of pretentious feeling will completely wither in front of Aizu!”

“When he sobered up after the feast that time, and was then politely told about the news of Aizu rejecting him, he became impressively depressed”

“UWAAA!? I really wanted to see! Why didn’t you tell me Tione～!”

Although they were preparing to retreat, there was almost nothing to do. The recovery of Magic Stone was the job of the Supporters. The earlier battle was completely taken by Aizu. The two Supporters, who had recently leveled to Lv.3, were currently collected the Magic Stone of the Spartoi. With the twins as the center stirring up things, a relaxed atmosphere flowed.

In the middle of this, from Aizu, who lifted her face from the potato croquette-kun, caused a ripple.

“……Finn, Riveria. I wanted to stand here by myself just for a bit longer”

The two people that had their name called out revealed a slightly different expression. Finn only widened his eyes slightly. Riveria instead, with an unchanging face, closed an eye.

Ignoring Tiona and Tione, who suddenly stopped all their actions, Aizu continued to talk about her opinion.

“It is okay to not give me food. After all, I do not wish to cause any trouble to others. Please”

“W…Wait a minute～! Aizu, the moment you said those words, you already caused us trouble! If we were to leave Aizu by herself in this kind of place, we will always be worried!”

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“I also have the same opinion as Tiona. Even if the Monster level here is lower, the act of leaving a companion in the Lower Floors, I absolutely cannot do it. It is too dangerous”

Facing Tiona, who had both hands on her hip and even leaned over so that her nose was almost in front of her face, Aizu slightly revealed a perplexed expression. She could not parry the assistance attacking from Tione either.

The content of what they just said was, without a doubt, the correct choice.

“Why is Aizu so keen to fight? Aizu is such a beautiful girl, what a waste～. If you were more girlish～. I, who’s an Amazon, would prefer to dress up instead!”

“For me……This sort of thing, ah, forget about it”

“Why? A strong male……you’ve never encountered a male that you fancied? Is Aizu’s beautiful face just only a decoration?”

“You. About the things that even you are powerless against, don’t try and force it on others”

Towards the stubborn Aizu, who lowered her head, Riveria, who stepped in from the outside, sighed.

She then turn around to Finn and said.

“Finn, I’ll request you as well. Please respect Aizu’s will”

“ “Riveria!?” ”

“Nnnn……?”

The Hobbit, who was shorter than anyone at the scene, looked at

Riveria as if he was trying to inquire the true meaning of her words.

“This child has this kind of stubborn personality. I hope you accept my suggestion.”

“That type of feeling of a parent protecting their child would only reap what you sow, Riveria. What Tiona and the others said is more reasonable. As the one responsible for the team, I cannot permit it”

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“I am conscious that I am spoiling her……Then”

Riveria, who sighed a second time, cast her gaze towards Aizu.

Seeing that the girl, who rarely shows any emotion, revealed an ashamed gaze.

This time she was self-ridiculing herself.

“Then I will also stay too”

To serve as Aizu’s support, Riveria wanted to convey this intent.

Finn, who was looking into her eyes, placed his hand underneath his jaw. Then he slowly nodded.

“I understand, permitted”

“Ahhhh～ Finn～. Convince them～”

“Riveria leaving words about staying behind was unexpected. With this, they should not experience any big mistakes. Instead, it’s possible for our side to encounter danger when heading back.”

“I am not that good at attacking and healing, leader”

After a while, the team had made their decision.

Finn, who joined the side of support, split apart from Aizu at that spot.

At the only exit of the room, when Tiona left, she would still whistle and wave her hands substantially.

“Thanks, Riveria”

“Originally I wanted to talk to you alone, but now even more. I will not intervene, but at least allow me to complain a few sentences.”

“……Sorry”

In the depths of the dialogue, which started without looking at each other, you could vaguely see the feeling of trust.

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The 37th floor was shrouded by a thin layer of darkness that was distinctly different than the floors above. The space above their head seemed to continue endlessly, and it is impossible to use the naked eye to see the ceiling. It was occupied by a despair-like darkness.

The white walls would emit lightly equally, and by relying on this candle-like light, you can ensure your vision.

Both of them were not moving temporarily and just stood there. Just when Riveria revealed a surprised expression.

As if she noticed something, Aizu pulled out her sword.

“Coming”

“What?”

Towards the beautiful face that was slightly bandaged, just when Riveria was about to inquire, what did you say—— She also quickly noticed it.

The floor of the dungeon that they were standing on was currently shaking.

“It can’t be……”

As if she was agreeing with the whisper-like phrase, Aizu’s gaze was currently looking at the center of the room that was gradually bulging.

In the next instant, the earth was torn apart.

Being pressed by a large amount of soil pieces, a never seen huge head seemed to have his face come out from the ground.

“——OOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO!!”

The ferocious wails were fired off directly above.

The monster that was screaming towards the sky was enormous. It was over 10

meters.

The entire body was a huge body with pitched-black bones. It's lower body was still underneath the ground. The giant monster that was like a scaled-up version of the Spartoi, and had its Magic Stone floating outside in midair.

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"I see. It has already been 3 months……"

Normally, the amount of Monsters on each floor was to be determined based on each type.

It will not increase past a certain number. Reducing it is the only way the dungeon walls will give birth to new Monsters. Although the time a Monster is born is different on each floor, the longest it can take won't be longer than a single day.

Among these, there exists Monsters that require a certain period of time and will temporarily not appear after death.

In addition, it was confirmed that there will only be one of these special Monsters in each floor.

Is it because of its strength, or perhaps it is too huge? Reasons aside, on the floor that it was born on, only one of them are allowed to wander around.

The guild that had survived from the ancient times, had begun to call these special Monsters as:

＜Solitary King of the Dungeon＞

"Riveria, don't help"

Aside from having a special time interval, the other common point for these different forms of ＜Solitary King of the Dungeon＞ are that they were insanely strong.

It was said that, based on the floor's Lv., you would have to add 2 to it.

They were feared by Third-Class Adventurers and above, who seemed to have given it the name of the Floor Boss. Normally, you would need a large amount of Adventurers to form a party. This was an existence that required all of them to attack it together.

"Aizu, do you really intend to do it by yourself?"

With a dangerous gaze, Riveria asked.

Aizu only lifted her silver sword, and quietly approached the Monster <Udaeus> that was roaring in an attempt to intimate them.

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"No problem"

Called by the Gods as <Boss Level B>, even to the extent that they sang songs of praises as a powerful enemy, the girl stood there by herself.

"It will end quickly"

A week later, a rumor about the <Sword Princess> reaching Lv.6, spread throughout Orario's streets.

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"……"

Bell stopped walking.

Just when they were walking up the stairs that connected the 2nd floor to the 1st floor, he turned around and looked towards the bottom.

"What is it, Bell-sama?"

"……Just now, didn't the dungeon shake?"

Being stared by Lili, who was following closely, he stared straight at the 2nd floor's ground, no, even further down. it should be the wider floors below, and cast a gaze towards there.

“Shake, was it? Lili did not feel anything at all?”

“……Was it a misconception?”

Bell attempted to rouse his mental state, but even when he had waited, nothing had happened. Although he tilted his head as if it were strange, but then he still accepted the conclusion that it was just misconception.

“Today was rather long”

“Yes. In some ways, that is correct. After all, it is already 12 o’ clock midnight now”

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“Eh, it can’t be!?”

Yes, Lili replied with a golden pocket watch in her hand.

The short hand and long hand perfectly overlapped at the location of the number 12.

“UWAAA, I completely didn’t notice it……”

“Because at the last moment, we were still being eyed upon by groups of Monsters”

There was no time to spare to confirm the time, Lili shook the luggage on the back while saying this. The large-sized backpack, which was filled with large amounts of Loot, was currently about to explode.

It has been several days since the two of them had signed the contract.

Under Lili’s assistance, Bell can be described as having successfully passed through every day. Or perhaps, it should be that he was finally on the right track as an Adventurer, and it gradually settled down. The efficiency of hunting Monsters also increased each day, and the amount of income each day could not be compared with when he was alone. He was currently in a readiness posture to rush towards his goal.

Just by adding a Supporter, there was actually such a difference. Bell frequently expressed his surprise.

On the other hand, to Bell, who was obviously still a rookie Adventurer, he was constantly breaking his record of monsters killed each day. Lili could only be amazed.

“So that’s about it Lili. Today’s income is also split equally okay?”

“……Bell-sama, it would be better if you understand more about common sense and being more materialistic. Although Lili, who gratefully accepted this, should not say such things……But you’re too nice”

“But, doesn’t Lili also need money now?”

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“Although that is true……but, perhaps Lili is worried about Bell-sama’s situation and cannot stand it anymore, or perhaps it would be like how I’ll be overly concerned about an acquaintance’s rabbit that they requested me to take care of……Nnnn～, in short, it feels like there is a sense of being misguided.～”

Recently, the number of complaints seem to have increased, Bell thought.

Not long ago, she had decided by herself to set the boundaries of Master and Follower. Now the feeling of regarding me as an outsider was gradually

disappearing. Was it because their relationship was becoming more intimate, Bell felt that the gap between Lili and him was constantly being filled.

While dispersing the attacks from Goblins, Bell and Lili headed forward on the 1st Floor, and shortly, they left the dungeon. After taking a shower and running to the gold exchange, they finally stepped through the main doors.

“UWAAAA, really. It is completely dark……”

The sky surrounding Babel’s central square, the night had already fallen.

Inside the glamorous streets that had Magic Stone Lamps, the Lamps were leisurely emitting a bright light. It enveloped the silent night that

was completely different than the morning.

On contrary to the time, the bars far away had only just begun to lit up like lights.

"……As expected, it really is big"

Bell, who had finished looking at the central square completely, finally fixed his sight behind him.

The huge tower that pierced through the dark night. The leisurely standing white wall skyscraper, was overlooking at Bell and the others.

The dark night was gradually becoming darker and now it was impossible to confirm the corners and edges. But Bell knew, this huge tower was embodied with ingenious concepts even to the tiniest details.

It was difficult to connect the internal functions together to the beautiful and artistic-like outside appearance. This was Babel's serious appearance that the Gods

had played around to the very limits. Bell continued to fix his gaze at the very top and let out a sigh.

"Babel, why is it so high? Although I heard that it leased out shops, but isn't it bad to still continue to build it upwards after 50 floors……"

"Bell-sama, the guild only leases it to tenants up to the 20th Floor?"

"Eh……I…Is it like this?"

Towards Bell, who had his eyes turned into dots, Lili used her small lips to make a wry smile expression.

Bell, who was feeling a bit embarrassed, bluntly asked.

"If there is no shops there, then what is above the 20th floor?"

"God-sama lives inside, Bell-sama"

"……God-sama?"

“Yes. Although it is only limited to only a few <Familia> Gods. All the way up until the top floor of Babel, it is where they live”

In the huge tower that could be called the symbol of the Labyrinth City, a few noble Gods that enjoyed luxury lived inside. To a certain extent, this was extremely natural.

Each room was decorated to the very limits of it being gorgeous and luxurious.

Especially the view that they could look from, it will absolutely not be blocked.

They will be able to watch the superb view of the majority of the city.

Since it was rented under the guild’s management, it would require a large living fee. Looking at this fee, you could already buy the most comfortable and high-class residence in Orario.

In other words, it is a high-class object that only permits the rich Gods to live in.

“Ah……, so there are some God-sama that do not live in their residence and specifically live somewhere else.”

“Just think of it as the territory of the God-sama, isn’t that okay? If there are God-sama that enjoys communication with Lili and the others, just like in the past, then there also exists God-sama that enjoys being aloof”

I see, Bell nodded as if he understood.

“Originally, Babel wasn’t such a huge tower. During the period where it only functioned as the <Cover> for the Monsters from escaping the Dungeon, it was said that it wasn’t that much different than the surrounding buildings.

“Then, why did it become so big now?”

“When the gods have first descended upon this land, the tower was crumbling before……Just like this, the God-sama that was falling like a meteor, hit the top of the tower”

“……”

They deliberately ruined it, it cannot be helped if one thinks so.

The tower was finally completed. Just when the people on the streets were celebrating it with tears, it was suddenly struck and crushed by the Gods severely……Towards the old residents of Orario, who had their mouth half-opened, the appearance of Gods laughing while apologizing appeared in front of their eyes.

Bell issued a dry laugh.

“Since then, the tower seemed to be called the ＜Collapsing Tower＞……＜God’s Tower＞. There is also this kind of background story for why the God-samas lived in this tower.”

The Gods that destroyed the tower, in order to apologize, they recreated the tower……Why not say that they did a large contribution in suppressing the dungeon, Lili said. There was no other, it was the ＜God’s Grace＞.

Until the Gods had established the concept of ＜Familia＞ in the Lower World and promoted it worldwide, they always had a relationship between the ones being worshiped and the worshiper. It could be said that Babel was built that high to show the God’s Authority.

As a result, Babel has reached its present height and the side of it continuing to be the God’s home was also left behind.

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“Anyways, I finally understand it a little……Uuueeeee, but just when I heard these rumors about the God-sama, I wanted to ask, is ＜Heaven＞ really such a leisurely place? To the extent that even the God-sama wanted to descend to the Lower World?”

“Perhaps they became annoyed with their work and wanted to escaped from it?”

Bell, who was originally looking up at Babel, turned to the direction of Lili after hearing such an unfamiliar way of saying such things.

“It is said that there are Gods in Heaven that must carry out their

obligations repeatedly. The most representative example is that they manage the Lower World children like Lili and the others after they go on a long sleep.”

“In other words……”

“Yes. The whereabouts of the people after death.”

Just by listening to this, Bell suddenly felt that his heartbeat interval become shorter.

Although it was just words that was unrecognizable, but because since it was a destructive fate that is unavoidable, so he could only listen to it.

In short, the words that Lili had said is that Gods seem to be responsible for the Lower World people after death.

If you would have to describe it using words, then it would be the <Soul>.

It was said that it varies according to the Gods. The encounter after death could vary in many different ways. Allowing to live in Heaven, being awarded

unimaginable pain and blame, being forced day after day to do meaningless heavy labour task……If it was to be listed out, the examples are endless.

The children from the Lower World that was liberated was managed singly by the Gods. It was completely irrelevant to whether if your actions in your lifetime were good or evil.

Whether the Gods like you, or dislike you. At that time, it will be based according to whether the God’s mood was good or bad. At that time, your fate was already decided on whether you would have good or bad luck.

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Casually, without any rules and just based on their own arbitrary and biased opinion, that was the <God’s Judgment>.

“Nnnn, in the end most people are still able to reincarnate……In short, because of these things, in order for Heaven to compensate for

the holes due to the sharp reduction of Gods, the remaining Gods have to work nonstop around the clock without any breaks or rests. It feels that their murderous intents are leaking out?

The candidates that can go back to the Lower World was also based on these heavy ＜Conversation＞ filled with murderous intents to determine the order."

I do not want to go to that place, no, I don't want to die……Bell seriously thought.

Right now, if he was to be in attendance with the Gods in Heaven, it feels like it will be just like the proverb that he would be welcomed to hell without any explanation. Just as a way to kill time.

Was this thought seen through, Lili looked at Bell's face, shook her shoulders and secretly snickered.

Bell was also revealing a slightly poor and weak expression while laughing.

It feels that it was quite funny.

"……But, Lili had once also looked forward to death"

So that's why.

This sentence undoubtedly became the wake up call for Bell.

"……Eh"

"Once, if I could return to God-sama's side……Will the Lili that will be born next time become slightly more superior to the current Lili, what……"

Looking at Babel, no, looking at the endless night sky, Lili muttered.

Her hood tilted, and her chestnut color bangs were also separated, the big eyes that were revealed was currently looking out into the distance.

It was as if towards the endless pitched-black sky, she was embracing a painful yearning.

“Li……Lili!”

Bell called out once he had noticed.

It feels that if he didn’t call out, Lili would head towards an unknown place.

Lili slowly closed her eyes, she looked away from the sky, and turned her face, while being covered by her bangs, towards Bell.

“……Sorry, I said something weird”

“……”

“It was all in the past. Please don’t take it seriously. Even if it is this Lili, she is also still filled with vitality. Right now that kind of thing, I have never thought of it again”

Bell could not say anything.

That must be true. Yes, from the actions of the girl stretching her chest, there was no trace of any feeling of grief. She must have cheered up again.

However, because of this, Bell could not express his extra emotions that he carried or, moreover, convey it to Lili using words.

“Then let’s go Bell-sama, it is already that late. We must hurry back. Lili also must return to the <Familia> residence too”

Accompanied by a bright smile, Lili turned her back towards Bell. Her tiny pace slowly walked forward.

Looking at her shoulder. Compared to the heavy backpack she was carrying, her shoulders seemed to be too slender.

Looking at the figure of Lili, who did not suit carrying the large backpack, Bell suppressed the choking feeling stuck in his chest, and desperately chased.

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“Is it. He has become stronger again”

A whisper echoed quietly in the air.

Looking at the distant white figure far below. It was chasing after another figure and gradually running into the distance.

She seemed to be indulged in excitement. Her burning gaze was tightly following the figure that was leaving.

The fluttering clouds, and the moon hanging from the night sky lit up the dark colored surroundings of the room's interior.

It occupied the entire surface of the rectangular glass wall. It shined cleary upon the figure standing next to the window as if it was under a spotlight.

Wrapped by a slim, black evening dress was a slim and busty figure.

And bathed by the slight chill from the moonlight, was a layer of mystery white and delicate skin.

Her silver hair that was almost all the way to the waist was brilliantly shining, as if there were numerous ice crystal pieces drifting around.

"This is good. As long as you become more dazzling……"

Towards the window that reflected her overly beauty, she ——Freya, seemed to be stretching her hands out as if she was grasping something, *Kari,* the glass issued a screech.

On the top floor of the huge tower Babel.

In one of the most superior rooms of this tower, she, as the owner of this home, was currently looking below at Bell.

"More and more dazzling? You, have this obligation after making me fall in love with you at first sight……"

In these pair of eyes, it contains a deep love, and it established the absolute sense of superiority between her and the existence that was inferior to herself.

Freya was already captivated madly. By Bell.

Abandoning these details, and simply allowing the fiery-like infatuation to be completely released, to this extent, the Goddess of Beauty was longing for this male day and night.

Freya has eyes, which should be called as <Insight Eyes>, that can see through the very essence Lower World's people ——<Soul>.

Although it was announced between the Gods that they were banned from using their <God's Power>, in the end, this was her innate ability so it was not considered taboo. She, from the very start, had always used these pair of eyes and turned those people who had died from the Lower World ——Especially the dead that have been hailed as a Hero —— and guided them into her own residence that was established in Heaven.

You could also call them as collectibles.

Those pair of eyes, that could grasp the color of the souls that are dead, earlier than anyone, had always collected the person she had liked.

After death, the people that had been accepted by <God's Judgment> bestowed by her hand were extremely lucky.

While waiting for their death, the people that were halted by her pair of eyes would receive supreme happiness.

Because they would be loved by her, who was known as the <Goddess of Beauty>, forever.

Even though they would absolutely never be free, and would be chained down forever.

The Goddess, Freya, who was in charge of both Beauty and Love.

Holding both positive and negative sides, the bold and brutal Goddess of Beauty.

"Become stronger, become more appropriate……That is your obligation"

Without a slightest difference like the other Gods, she abandoned her territory in Heaven, including her own residence, and descended

selfishly to the Lower World.

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However, Freya's interest still did not change. These pair of eyes that see through the children's essence, talent and brightness, allowed the more excellent ＜Soul＞ holders to join her own ＜Familia＞.

No one could refuse. No one is willing to reject.

A person that can go against Freya's magical beauty, not even one exist.

Therefore, her ＜Familia＞ members had a strength that isolates them from the surroundings. Even in this Labyrinth City, ＜Freya's Familia＞ was also one of the strongest ＜Familia＞.

Loki, knowing of the power in her eyes, had even evaluated it as a ＜Rotten to the Bone, Cheating Ability＞.

"I also like strong men, you know?"

Noticing Bell was by accident.

One day in the morning, his figure that was walking on the Main Street Area was captured by this pair of silver eyes.

——Want.

The moment she saw him, that was what she thought.

It was a feeling that she had not felt for a long time. Her entire body trembled uncontrollably, her abdomen was in pain, and a trance-like breath leaked out from the depth of her throat. Just like what she had done till now, she wanted **that** to become hers. Even if it was hideous, her mind still let out this pure and child-like desire.

In Bell's eyes, there was a color that Freya had never seen before. It was a transparent color.

From then on, what color will it become, or will it remain transparent. The God's interest will be endless towards this ＜Unknown＞ in front of them.

So, isn't that the case.

Wanting to observe the situation temporarily. Although dyeing him in her own colors is also a kind of pleasure, but it feels that isn't too late after watching him.

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"I'm really looking forward to it. How strong will you become, and to what extent will you shine……And what color you will become"

The pair of eyes, that was looking at Bell's figure, indeed contains love. Only that, it is a disordered love.

Freya used her seductive mouth to latch onto her bent index finger, and gently bit on it.

A captivating fragrance instantly flooded the surroundings.

"Ara? ……Nnn Fufu, he noticed again?"

In front of her sight, Bell, who had already became extremely small, suddenly stopped, and frequently turned his head around.

As if he was attacked by unease, and seemed to be looking for something. Freya narrowed her eyes and her smile became deeper.

It was the same when she fell in love with him at first sight on the West Main Street Area. Noticing the gaze that poured out from her passionate body. His sense seems to be keener than what she imagined.

Or perhaps, these pair of <Eyes> that was staring at the boy, was too impolite.

(I originally thought that compared to my own children, they were relatively scarce……In the end, why. Or should I say, including this point, and all the <Growth>? Fufu, it really is interesting……)

Frankly speaking, it was possible to collect him when she first saw him. Noticing his intimate conversation with the opposite gender, it feels that it would be very easy to capture him. Even if he was awarded by another God's <Grace>, she had the confidence to be able to forcibly convince him.

The reason why she had not done that was because she had not yet confirmed the existence of the God behind the boy—— She did not

wish to have any violent conflict with any <Loki's Familia> or similar level enemies—— That wasn't the case.

After seeing that innocent smile, she became stunned and just stared. She had lost all of her motivation.

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(Although I feel a bit sorry to Hestia……but I want, that child)

No matter what, but this time changing her strategy and watching him in the shadows was also good. Freya thought.

Watching and loving a cat on her knees was also lacking a new feeling. Sometimes allowing them to roam in the courtyard is also a good idea.

Anyways, this here was her own garden.

She could get it whenever she wanted it.

"Although turning you into my own object is something that I've waited for a long time……It's really complicated. I also wish that moment will never come. The time right now is perhaps what is most enjoyable"

This time must also be the same as before. After obtaining it, her concern will become less and she'll get weary of Bell. Her favorite toys will eventually become one of the dolls inside the decoration cabinet. When she wants it, she'll take it from the cabinet. After playfully loving it, it will then be placed back inside.

The initial experience of expectation and joy will eventually fade. The feelings will only become degraded.

Just like love. Once it reaches the climax, it will only slowly disappear. Love that had completely ended could not become an object of longing.

That was empty, but Freya did not think so.

Love was just that kind of thing, and she was also a Goddess of Love.

Thus, as long as the collectibles inside her cabinet increases, it will still be good, thought Freya.

Tucking a strand of hair that touched her cheeks behind her ears.

Under the illusion from the moonlight, her bare shoulders was becoming moist.

Occasionally she would show eyes just like a girl in love. Freya continued to stare at Bell as if she was deeply in love.

"……But, right. It is almost time for him to be able to use <Magic>"

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Ton, she placed her index finger against her jaw and wondered.

After tilting her head to the side and silently considering it, she still seem to be reluctant to look away from Bell's body, who had stride forward.

Although Freya's <Eyes> could not see through the true form of the <Status> from other Gods, but she could still vaguely see the situation from the color and brightness, and predict.

From what she saw, Bell's <Magic> was not filled. To Freya, it was only somewhat uncertain just from watching.

Immediately, she stretched out her hand.

"Is this okay?"

In the corner of the room sat a bookshelf. It was extremely wide and tall. It was to the extent that it could easily cover her entire body.

Her slender fingers headed towards the center of the shelf, a certain book's thick book spine was pulled out. *Koton*, it issued a sound of books falling, and she took it into her hands.

After turning a few pages to confirm the contents, Freya nodded satisfied.

"Ottar"

"Yes"

She called out a name. An imposing voice replied.

Was he there in the room from the very beginning, a person was standing next to the entrance.

A beastman with mineral-colored short hair, who grew a pair of pig ears. With a rock-like body, it was a burly man over 2 meters tall.

He stood like a statue, like a faithful dog, waiting for Freya's, who was his owner, next sentence.

"Take this book……"

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Freya, who had thought to deliver the book, interrupted the half-finished sentence.

Closing her mouth tightly, she took back her hand and stared carefully at the book.

"May I ask what happened?"

"……Fufu, nothing, nothing happened. Just forget about what I had said"

"Yes"

Freya had already excluded Ottar, who replied with a short answer that he understood, from her consciousness. She stared at the book in her hand and revealed a slight smile.

Right. There was no need to let her precious subordinates to specially deliver this book.

If this burly man appeared in front of his eyes and wordlessly deliver this book, that boy must be very afraid. It can't be like that, she smiled and decided it.

There was no need to personally hand it over. As long as it reaches his hand.

I'll place it there.

In the street where she had encounter him one-sidedly and had fallen in love with him at first sight.

In the shop that was opened there.

If she leaves it there, then no matter what, it will be handed to him.

In the slightly dark room, Freya, who continued to watch as a stalker, secretly leaked out sounds of laughter.

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"*Kushun*!"

Seal issued out a cute sneeze.

While maintaining the posture of her hand covering her mouth, she blushed shortly.

She nervously looked around, and was greeted by the gaze by the shop personnel inside the shop. With her cheeks being dyed even more red, she buried her head down.

"Seal, did you catch a cold?"

"U…Uuunnnn. I'm alright, no need to worry"

After being asked by the elf, Ryuu, Seal, who was still had slightly red cheeks, made a wry smile.

Placing the, *patapata,* waving hands together, the hair that was the same color of the thin dull tail that was hanging below the dango, also gradually began to shake.

"Could it be that a rumor was reported out about Seal and someone else, nyaa?"

"If that's the case, then the answer is very clear……Nifufu, that Adventurer boy nyaa"

"……Angry, Chloe?"

The beastman cat people that threw a smirk towards her, Seal lifted her eyebrows slightly.

Facing her like this, the female called Chloe had an unmoving smile and sent off a wink. But on the other side of the store while carrying a table, a tail was moving happily underneath the skirt.

Seal could not help but sigh.

“But that Adventurer-kun, he did not come yesterday in the end.”

“Usually he would be carrying the empty, nya, love bento and come back, nya”

“No wonder Seal came so early today, isn’t it because she wanted to find the boy, nya”

“I did not come to find him!”

In order to prepare the interior of the shop, her colleagues that were carrying tables together issued off a confusing attack in all direction. Although Seal declared this in the center of the shop, her colleagues smirked and did not plan to reflect upon it as they moved back and forth like cockroaches.

“Seal, it’s okay. Cranel-san is not a person that will fail to live up to Seal’s feelings.

Indeed, yesterday, it must be because he came back from the dungeon late on an occasion.”

“Although what Ryuu is saying is also slightly wrong……Nnnn, forget it”

Towards Seal who gave up and bowed down her head, Ryuu only gave off an incredulous stare. She did not understand in all seriousness of Seal’s idea of being “Misunderstood”.

Ever since last time she gave Bell her handmade bento, making lunch for him by herself had become Seal’s every day’s homework.

Although she didn’t understand the reason, but her surroundings being constantly misled had caused the situation to become like this.

Normally, Bell would return the bento that he ate in the dungeon in the evening of that day, but it was not the case yesterday. This had

lead to her being teased around by other shop personnel during the following morning.

“Facing trouble in the dungeon, could it nyaa be nyaa like this nyaaa?”

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“Hey hey, Anya, you’re too imprudent! That Adventurer probably will not leave Seal by herself and disappear!”

“I also, feel a bit tired……”

“Seal, don’t be discouraged. Cranel-san must be fine”

“No, Ryuu, not like that……”

“Just like what Ryuu said, nyaa. That boy probably won’t nyaa die nyaa. Or perhaps I should say, I don’t want nyaa him to die nyaa. If he dies, maybe Miya’s chest will also be in pain as if it was ripped apart nyaa……”

Instantly, whispers began to spread.

“It can’t be……” “Even Chloe also……” This kind of whispers began to sprout in every corner of the shop.

Seal went “Eh, Eh?” and shaking her head around as if she had a dazed expression.

“The boy’s existence nyaa is impossible to replace nyaa……Yes, even if I wanted to nyaa replace him nyaa it is impossible……”

“C…Chloe? W…What are you saying……?”

Towards the beastman girl that was interweaving words out of the blue, Seal inquired.

Chloe turned her half-moon eyes towards Seal, and directly stared at her.

“Seal. Miya is going to public disclose……”

“D…Disclose what?”

“Miya……Towards that boy’s seductive shape and immature butt, she has an irresistible sense of excitement……!”

“……”

“Every time I fantasize about that fruit that is wrapped in a thin layer of fat, I would immediately be tormented by a dirty and evil sense of yearning……! Miya, Miya……Fu ah, Fu AH!”

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“……”

“Ah, wait……It hurts, I’m sorry, f…Forgive……!”

Stop it, Stop it. From the center of all the shop personnel, a noisy sound poured out.

The wine bar ＜Mistress of Abundance＞ from early morning, it was bustling different than before.

“Hey, stupid girls! Stop playing around and get to work!”

Looking at the preparations that aren’t going anywhere, the female boss Mia, yelled out from the depths inside the door.

The stupid girls all shook their shoulders and swiftly returned to work. “Really now”, she, the dwarf, secretly looked over and shrugged her shoulders.

“……Eh? Seal, what is this?”

“Ah?”

Seal, who was nearby turned around and looked in the direction of where a human shop personnel pointed out.

That place was the counter. It was the special corner seat inside the shop that Seal had prepared for Bell, who came for the first time, a few days ago.

On the seat where he had sat, was a book.

“This is……”

“An item that someone left behind?” “nyaa, what, nyaa, what?” “What happened, nyaa?”

As if they were peeping behind Seal, who was holding the book with both hands, the shop personnel eagerly stuck their heads out.

“Miya also nyaa is knowledgeable enough to read book nyaa” “Same as the person on my right nyaa”

“Nnnn, I already knew. You do not have to specifically mention it, oh?”

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“ “ Want to die nyaa” ”

“Seal, what happened?”

“There was a book here …… It doesn’t look like anyone’s items. Is it something a customer forgot to take?”

“Nnn? Was there a book there yesterday……”

“Okay, okay, it must be Noah’s illusion, illusion, nyaa. If it wasn’t an item that a customer forgot to take nyaa, then who was it that secretly placed it there nyaa?

Pupu, to this reasoning that is filled with holes, I simply want to spit at it nyaa”

“So that’s why I say that I’m not used to dealing with idiots without knowledge, nyaa……”

“WAAAAA, I’ll kill you”

Ignoring the noise from the spectators, Seal and Ryuu both observed the book.

It is a thick book. It was painted pure white and who knows from where, an ancient smell of paper flowed through.

Engraved on the cover was various irregular geometry patterns, the book’s title was not documented anywhere.

“……Please wait. Could this be……”

Although Ryuu seemed to have noticed something, but at that time Mia's angry roar screamed out.

"Why do I have to say the same thing again! Or is it because just by saying it with my mouth it isn't enough!? Okay, then I will directly teach your bodies!"

Everybody was afraid.

"W…Wait a minute, nyaa, mama. Miya found a suspicious item, nyaa!?"

"This, this!"

"Seal, quickly show it to mama, nyaa!"

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"Nnnn, suspicious item?"

Seal, who was being urged by her surroundings, went "Ah, yes" and took a few steps forward, and showed her back to Ryuu and the others. Her thin dull colored hair shook in front of their eyes and she showed the book that she was holding to Mia, who looked surprised.

"Mia mama, this book, it seems like an item that a customer forgot to take away.

How should we deal with it?"

"…….Ah ah eh?"

Under the gaze of the staff, who swallowed their saliva, Mia exchanged gaze from Seal and the book. Then she suddenly frowned.

(……?)

Ryuu had a question towards Mia's expression. After all, she had never seen her, who still had the strength of a first-class Adventurer, reveal such a troubled expression.

Just when the elf girl felt that it was unbelievable, Mia gave a taboo-like gaze at the book while she issued out commands towards Seal in a slightly less deep and stingy voice.

"……Place it in a place that is easy to notice in the shop. As long as they are not an idiot, they will be aware that they forgot something and come back to take it."

"Okay, I understand."

After Seal had seriously bowed her head, the people at the scene quickly disbanded.

Due to Mia's reprimand, the shop personnel were working harder than usual.

Although Ryuu was standing there and did not move for a moment, she saw the faces of her colleagues talking and laughing merrily, and she gave off a deep sigh.

Then, she also went back to her work.

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"Bell-sama, NO!? Your toes!"

"Eh?"

Lili's cries entered my eardrum.

The current location was the 7th floor. As I was holding the <Goddess's Dagger> and preparing to pounce towards the Killer Ant, I could not help but issue out a silly voice towards the sudden warning.

I failed to grasp the current situation about the floor that I thought I knew like my own background.

"—— *JI*!"

"!?"

But suddenly, I understood the meaning of Lili's warning.

<Needle Rabbit>.

The rabbit type Monster with a needle on its forehead was approaching from a dead angle while close to the ground. If I was pierced by the Loot, which was considered a high-classed weapon

material, then a fatal injury would be inevitable.

While looking at the pair of dark eyes, the Needle Rabbit prepared to charge towards my left foot.

“!”

Since my foot was currently in midair, it was already impossible to avoid it. My body was also moving rapidly and the right leg that was not targeted was about to step into the air.

I, swiftly bent my left knee.

On my lower body, the only place that had defensive gear was a portion of my knee. In order to think of a way to defend against the enemy’s attack, I decided to gamble ——Without the slightest error, the one-horned beast’s surprise attack was misled to the knee guard.

Gakin, the impact that passed through the metal plate hurt the bone.

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Following the sound of the sharp metallic side that came from interacting with the Needle Rabbit, I, lost my balance.

“*JAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA*”

As if they were already prepared, it was the worst possible timing.

The Killer Ants that were originally seen as a target headed towards me to attack.

And also, both of them together.

The Killer Ants were enemies that I had fought numerous rounds with for the past few days. This includes situations where I was fighting 4 against 1.

Right now, just a mere two ——Could this be the retribution for looking down on them.

In front of my eyes, four claws swept through and headed towards me.

“Nnnnn!?”

The＜Jade Supporter＞ equipped on my left wrist was guarding closely my face and prevented the attack.

Because of its high durability, the hand armor suffered no damage. However, the powerful impact attacked my left arm, and my entire body was blown off to the side.

I couldn’t confirm the center of my gravity since a long time ago. Although I didn’t fall, my footsteps were still staggering.

Then, as if it was trying to take the victory by adding an additional attack, the remaining Killer Ant prepared to rush over.

(——Not good)

I would be overwhelmed.

Once it took advantage of the impact and pushed me down onto the ground from the momentum, I would be suppressed by those four claws. And while I can’t move, I would be ripped into 8 pieces by those claws. That’s how heavy the hard shell of the Killer Ants are.

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It was a serious matter that Eina-san had reminded me to pay attention to.

If I, who had a slender physique, was pressed down onto the ground by a monster, it was the same as having no escape route.

(——Ah)

It was the second time.

It was the same as that time with the ＜Minotaur＞, a premonition of an inevitable moment of death.

My body was trembling and tightly wrapped by fear, I could not move and was stunned. My breathing also stopped. The flow of time gradually became slower.

The Killer Ants suddenly opened his mouth and showed its ugly face.

Saliva was dripping, and I could clearly see those teeth that would cause nausea.

My thinking gradually became empty. I could only unresponsively accept the surprise attack by the Killer Ant.

“No————!!”

Instantly after Lii raised her voice, a fireball flew from her suddenly.

“!?”

“*JIKIAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA*!?”

“Bell-sama!”

After being shot by a fireball in the head, the Killer Ant in front of me was writhing in pain and my bodily time recovered.

Although I was startled by Lili’s cry, but I still move like lightning and swung my right hand that was holding to the ＜Goddess’s Dagger＞.

“*JI*!?”

“UWAAAAAAAA!”

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San! Accompanied by the crisp sound, the burning head of the Killer Ant flew into the air. There was still one more. The other Killer Ant panicked and was also instantly killed in one hit.

I cut twice on my opponent’s body. I did not witness the final piece of this scene and reversed my gaze.

Right now, the Needle Rabbit was jumping and attempting to have a surprised attack. I pulled out my ＜Dagger＞ and used it to ferociously counter it back.

“*KIII*……”

“……Ha!”

Only after I killed the last Monster in the room did I dare to let my breathe out, which I had continued to hold in.

It was only now that the annoying sweat come out all at once. I squatted down and wiped my face.

Just now, that was extremely dangerous.

While I listened to the frantic heartbeat inside my chest, I temporarily breathed roughly.

“Bell-sama, are you not hurt?”

“……Lili～. Thank you, that was a big help”

Looking at the figure of Lili approaching, I gradually lost my strength. I sat down limp on the ground.

“Just now, that was too careless! Although it was indeed a difficult situation to deal with, but Bell-sama was also at fault!”

“Sorry……”

I was not able to refute.

Careless. No, was I too conceited.

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I overestimated myself. Thinking that just 2 Killer Ants would be instantly defeated.

Just like what the textbooks had said……Just like what Eina-san had warned about on how to deal with it. Even if I was to be attacked by a Needle Rabbit, it should not have turned out like that.

I felt the terror. The dungeon’s terror. There is nothing that is absolute.

If I took a wrong step, if Lili was not here, then I would have really died.

I, who continued to shudder, carved this lesson into my heart. Hasty judgments will instantly take away one’s life.

Towards Lili’s voice, that was constantly speaking rudely about this and that, it entered through one ear and left through the other. Then she let out a long sigh.

“Are you listening, Bell-sama!”

“Ah, Eh, sorry……I’m reflecting upon it. I will absolutely never do this kind of thing again……”

“……Looks like you really are reflecting about it. Then, Lili will not say anything more. If you do not learn from this mistake, then this is Bell-sama’s own responsibility”

Yes, I nodded once again, and promised that I will not make the same mistakes again. Then I stood up.

I once again thanked Lili, then suddenly “Speaking of which”, referred to the thing that had just happened earlier.

“Lili, just now, did you use magic?”

“……Ha!?”

To my accusations, Lili was shaken. She hurriedly hid the small red dagger in her right hand behind her back.

“Just now, could it be a ＜Magic Sword＞? Ah, you used that to help me…….I’m really grateful, and I feel a bit happy”

“……! I d…did not specifically help Bell-sama! It’s just that if there is no Bell-sama, Lili’s revenue will also decrease! P…Please don’t misunderstand!”

“……What are you saying, Lili?”

Towards that confused speech that made me unable to react, I could only reveal a puzzled expression, while Lili widened her eyes in surprise. While blushing, she began to hug her head around her hood saying “What did Lili just say……?”. Nnn, looks like I can’t keep up with the pace……

“That……Lili also brought a ＜Magic Sword＞?”

“Ha…Haaaaaaa. Various things happened and as a result, it unexpectedly ended in Lili’s hands……”

“Ah. But won’t Magic Sword break due to excessive use?”

“Yes, so Lili will not use it unless absolutely necessary. But if it was

for Bell-sama, Lili will absolutely not hold back!”

……Nnnn, it seems to contrary to the previous statement earlier. But it’s not a big deal.

Shortly after, we welcomed noontime with a sense of hunger. After waiting for Lili to clean up the Monster corpse, we occupied the center of the room. This is because leaning against the wall has the risk of Monsters being born and getting under attacked, thus most of the time while resting, we would move into this location.

Since the space was very wide, even if there is Monsters appearing from the entrance, it shouldn’t become a surprise attack.

(Speaking of which, I still haven’t returned the basket that I got from Seal-san……) While placing the simple food into my mouth, I recalled about the lunch that I got from Seal-san yesterday.

Because it was too late yesterday, so I did not have time to return it. I also overslept this morning and was not able to visit the <Mistress of Abundance>. I feel that it would be bad if I do not return it today ……

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Following this, we were immersed in our conversation.

The dungeon was exceptionally quiet. There were no signs of Monsters appearing.

While I secretly watched Lili expose a carefree smile, I waited nervously for an opportunity and try to honestly ask the question that had been haunting me.

“Speaking of which Lili, didn’t you say you have to return to your <Familia> yesterday, was there something that happened?”

Originally I intended to ask as if it didn’t matter, but Lili’s expression suddenly froze.

Although it was concealed over by a smile quickly, but it was still very stiff.

As expected……It would have been better to not mention it.

“Why did you ask such a thing, Bell-sama?”

“……After all, Lili and the other Familia people have a terrible relationship, that, I was very curious……Sorry”

I had heard before that Lili was excluded by her <Familia> and that the grudge still exists. I had nearly overreacted when I heard that Lili had to return to the residence yesterday night.

I could not help but apologize while reflecting on this. Lili drooped her eyebrow and smiled.

“Thank you for worrying about Lili, Bell-sama. However, it is not a problem. The things that Bell-sama was worried about did not happen.”

“Really?”

“Ahah, really. Yesterday was just the <Soma’s Familia>’s gathering that is held once a month.”

“Gathering……?”

“……To keep a long story short, it is mainly about announcing how much money I would have to earn the next month. It is a different amount based on the members, so everybody must gather together.”

The <Familia>’s operational costs, it was probably something like that.

Collecting funds from the members’ revenue. In some sense, it was natural after belonging to the faction——To my understanding, it is the same thing as paying rent for your own house——So, there is nothing suspicious there.

Lili, who was excluded by her <Familia>’s companions, would promote herself as a Supporter. It was probably because she had to reached the collection funds amount.

“But that is really strict, actually asking everybody to reach their quota. Then isn’t it bad for those who earn very little……”

“That’s correct, Lili also thinks so. Especially for Supporters or Rookie

Adventurers…….”

Ah, I widened my eyes.

Although I could not believe it, but I still had to accept it.

Awhile back, when Lili sarcastically said such words, was it really because she needed money……?

Could it be that the reason why she did not have a good relationship with her companions was also due to money.

I hurriedly opened my mouth to ask. “Then what happen to those that do not reach the quota”. Lili seemed to have seen through the meaning and smiled. She shook her head and replied “Nothing special”.

Which means there is no punishment……Although I calmed down like a

fool, having a situation where such a small beastman child had to work by herself, I couldn’t help but have wild conjectures about whether some insider

things happened in the <Soma’s Familia>.

Looking at me frown and revealing a troubled expression, Lili seemed to touch her head as if she was apologizing. Huh, Apologizing……?

“T…Then. I’ve heard that, the <Soma’s Familia> sells wine?”

The restless atmosphere was constantly pouring out, thus I attempted to change the topic.

I put on a bad smile.

“Ahhh, those are all……failures.”

“……Failures? ……E…Ehhhh?”

“Yes. Only defective products that are eliminated in the wine manufacturing process enter the market. After all, it would be a waste to throw them out.”

Wait a minute.

Eina-san had definitely said that before. <Soma's Familia>'s wine was very delicious. The demand was also extremely high……After all, there were also many experts in the customers that buy the wine. What made those people say that it was exceptional was actually a……failure?

Then what are those failures, for that wine.

I did not try to hide my confusion, Lili only exposed a slightly hazy smile.

"Even though they are failures, it is still a very delicious wine. That's just how it is"

Then shouldn't you not use the words, failures, to describe it, I unconsciously wanted to ask.

No, if that's the case, then what is the <Completed Product> like……?

"The revered God of Lili and the others, Soma-sama, is very distant with the other God-sama. He is not interested in anything at all……All except for one, which Soma-sama is interested in. That is wine brewing"

"……"

"That is the sole interest of Soma-sama that could make him work hard without any distractions …… The reason why Soma-sama created the <Familia>, the meaning of existence of the <Soma's Familia>, it wouldn't be wrong to say that all of it was for this interest"

Setting up fixed targets for the members to raise funds seems to be because that the manufacturing process requires a large budget.

For the God-sama's interest, creating the <Familia>, and in a sense, using his <Familia>, this kind of situation was not uncommon. After all, the God-sama are endlessly pursuing entertainment. Aside from ensuring their standard of living, it was understandable for them to

include their hobbies as well. The reason why a God-sama would actively participate in an industry, was also because they had a curious-like passionate as a starting point.

But……Why is there still a sense of violation towards the ＜Soma's Familia＞ lingering.

It wasn't necessarily just because I was exposed to Lili's circumstances, but if I saw the inner distorted state of the ＜Soma's Familia＞ that was produced, perhaps it was still excusable.

―― ＜Madly Pursuing Money＞ ―― ＜Anxious＞ ―― ＜Desperate＞ ―― Eina-san's expression, when she said those words, suddenly flashed through my mind.

"A…Ahahaha……I…If there is really wine that delicious, I also want to try and drink it……?"

With an expression that was about collapse any moment, I said a joke in order to connect the previous dialogue.

Lili looked at me, who was like this, as if I was about to disappear any moment, and slightly smiled.

"It would be better to stop right there……"

"……"

After she muttered to herself, our conversation stopped.

We were unable to resolve to continue our conversation. Just when we were wasting our time, Monsters appeared, and we had no choice but to fight. Lili quickly recovered her original atmosphere, I could only ambiguously accept.

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The gap had not yet been filled.

I do not know whether it was even possible to fill it.

I deeply understood this.

As if the weak me, who could not do anything, was exposed once again, and I felt the endless embarrassment.

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Two day after that.

There was a one day interval since I had entered the dungeon with Lili.

The day before yesterday, Lili had conveyed news that something had happened, so she could not go to the dungeon.

Although I don't know whether it was related to the <Familia> or not, but Lili's apologetic expression was still fresh in my memories.

I don't know why I lost motivation, but I did not go to the dungeon yesterday as well.

I should take advantage of forgetting about dungeon-related matters and take a break. Although I kept persuading myself like this……But as expected, I really couldn't explain.

Every time I recall Wallenstein's face, my chest would gush out thoughts of "Is this the time to do such a thing". But no matter what, I was still unmotivated. Just like a sailing boat without any wind.

"……Ahhhh, this cannot go on."

Sitting up from the coach, I violently scratched my head.

I took a deep breath, and expelled all the gloomy atmosphere from my body.

Anyways, I should take action first. I should find something to do. I cannot just let myself rot like this.

Although this was not considered as waking up, but anyways I should first switch how I was thinking. Lili's matters, I should leave it for now.

(Let's do the long-awaited clean up……)

Due to the significant reduction in time that I stayed at the residence,

I feel that it has been a while since I did housework.

Leaving it all to Kami-sama was bad. Just when I was thinking about this, I began to take action and stood up from the coach……Then the basket on the shelf entered my sight.

"……Ah."

I am an idiot.

"I'm really sorry!"

"Ah ha ha ha……"

Ban, I clasp my hands together and lowered my hand.

It was currently sunny at noon. I ran over to the <Mistress of Abundance> and was currently apologizing in front of Seal-san. I could not even utter a single excuse for doing such a stupid thing like forgetting to return it for several days.

"Please raise your head, Bell-san. I do not mind."

"No, but……"

"Since this is the case, please pay attention to it next time. After all, things in the past are already over, so please show your sincerity through your future course of actions."

What you are saying is ……I worriedly peeked upwards while raising my head.

Seal-san, who was smiling slightly, was looking at me with gentle eyes.

At this moment, I could deeply feel that this person is really older than me.

"However, also. Not leaving any news made me really worried. It was to the extent where I've made mistakes at work."

“Really sorry about it……”

“……I was also mercilessly teased.”

With a little resentment in her eyes, Seal pursed her lips. Ha? I don’t know why, but her cheeks were slightly red. She intentionally coughed a few times, and pretended that nothing had happened.

I still had some doubts as I returned the basket over. Then I picked up the shop’s menu.

Saying goodbye after returning back her items made me feel like I was a scum.

Although it couldn’t be considered as compensation for forgetting to return the item, I should still simply order something.

Besides from me, the relaxed customers are mainly female. It seems that a beastman housewife was currently smiling with her children. They were currently putting the fruits on the plate into their mouth, and revealed an intoxicated expression.

“Huh, was there this kind of decoration before?”

On the counter seat that allows you to look around the shop, a single white book captured my gaze.

It was leaning on the wall behind me……Saying it was an interior decoration was a bit far-fetched.

“Ahhhh, that is……”

Seal, who brought over the menu, suddenly stopped speaking. Then, before I produced some doubts, she continued to speak.

“It seems that an unknown customer left it behind in the shop. In order for him to notice it and pick it up when he returns, we placed it like that.

Ha, I sent out an lifeless sound. There was actually someone who would forget such a thick book in a bar.

Afterwards, I continued to slowly talk with Seal-san, who brought the

cakes and red tea over. It seems that the cat person shop personnel had arbitrarily decided to let Seal-san to rest, does it not matter?

Anyways, I felt that it was a bit fishy.

“Then, are you resting for today?”

“Actually, it isn’t something that sounds that nice……”

I hid the matters related to Lili, and confessed that I don’t know why I feel unmotivated.

It is not considered to be a slip of tongue. Maybe I just wanted to talk to somebody about it.

Also, there was this shameless expectation about whether if I could get some helpful advice.

Seal-san looked at me and, after a while, she revealed a smile.

“Then, how about reading a book?”

“Reading a book?”

“Yes. Because Bell-san does not seem to be the type that reads book. Why not take advantage of this opportunity to try it?”

Just because it was like this, a book could be a good stimulus, Seal-san said.

Reading a book……I haven’t thought of that. But indeed, it could possibly be a good medicine for me.

After finishing a hero’s story, I would always have a restless feeling.

Being exposed to the world inside the book and allowing my heart to be jumping with joy, perhaps it would be able to pull me out from my current depressed state.

“Nnn, perhaps that’s not a bad idea. Thank you very much, Seal-san. I will try and read some books.”

“If I was able to help, then I am also very happy.”

I gratefully accepted Seal-san's suggestion.

Just when I thought that I should not think about it by myself and discuss it with someone else, Seal-san continued to speak.

"What kind of books do you like to read?"

"Nothing really. In our headquarters, there are many books from Kami-sama.

Maybe I should borrow one……"

When I was thinking whether if I should just go directly to the bookstore, Seal-san said "In that case", and brought over the white book leaning from the wall over.

"Why don't you try to read this book?"

"Eh? But, isn't this book something that a customer left behind……"

"As long as you return it, there will be no problems. Anyways, books won't lose anything after being read. And this must be something related to Adventurers.

Perhaps there are contents written in it that would help Bell-san out."

Because this is a very popular bar for Adventurers, naturally you would imagine the situation of the owner.

Indeed, this is a precious book that I have never seen before. Perhaps there will be no chance in the future to touch it.

However, simply taking away other people's things was still……

"It does not matter. Anyways, Mia mama seems to be unhappy that this book was left in the shop. If Bell-san is able to accept it, then perhaps it would help us out…… And"

Seal-san became slightly embarrassed.

"I also wanted to become Bell-san's strength, or something……"

"……"

“After all, I can only do this level of things, so Bell-san, could you accept it?”

After being told about the wish that was similar to the usual, I could not help but reveal a wry smile.

If that’s the case, I’ll kindly accept it.

I do not want to let down Seal-san’s feelings so I decided to accept the book.

While it was handed over to me, Seal-san’s soft hands touched my own hand, and my heart was rattled.

“T…Thank you very much. Then, it is almost time for me to go?”

“Okay. Thank you for coming.”

I panicked and used that as an excuse to stand up.

While saying “The cakes were very tasty”, I hurriedly left the shop.

It seems to be the same when I was with Eina-san……No, once I touch a female’s skin, I would become extremely nervous. My face would be flushed. In the end, how innocent am I.

“Seal, did you lend the book out……?”

“Yes. I lent it.”

“Even though you knew that it was an item that tentatively belonged to the shop, but you still lent it out. It really is rare for the serious Seal……”

“You two, nyaa, haven’t you heard of the saying that “Love is blind” nyaa? For Seal to overcome to difficulty, it is nyaa impossible nyaa.”

While I was confused due to the feeling of touch from Seal-san’s warm hands, I quickly set foot on the way back home.

× × ×

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Once I returned to the headquarters, I could not wait to start reading.

Kami-sama has not yet come back at this time, so I held the white

book in my hand and placed it onto the table.

Pulling out a chair, I nervously opened the cover with no titles printed on it.

<Autobiography – Mirror, Mirror, The World's most Beautiful Magical Girl is Me~ Side Story – Allowing you to become a Master of Magic Episode ~> What should I do, there was an unpleasant feeling at the very beginning.

<One – Goblins can also understand modern magic! >

Then why don't you teach magic to Goblins……

I desperately resisted my temptation to close the cover while thinking about this. I could not let down Seal-san's good intentions. So I forced myself to end and continued to read.

Although the opening was a bit like that, but the contents were quite decent.

From the titles of the table of contents, it seems to be a book related to Magic.

"Ooooo" my eyes were shining and I felt lucky that I was able to indulge into the sea of books.

<Magic is divided into inborn and acquired categories. Inborn Type means that it is obviously related to the roots of the target's qualities and race. The ancient magic race would carry potential talent, and through practice and rituals, they would be able to learn Magic early on. Although there is also the chances of the attributes being biased, but most of them are powerful and have a wide range of effects.>

Because it was compiled using a common language, so I was barely able to understand it.

However, what are these small text that are wandering between the lines……?

Ancient Text……No, it seems like, formulas was it, this?"

I turned the page.

<Acquired Type uses the <God's Grace> as the medium, so it is possible for the buds to grow. There are unlimited branches of path there. It is greatly affected by <Experience Points>. >

It was different than <Sacred Text>, but it also does not seem to be various demi-human language.

There was no unified form, it was a group of complex and strange signs.

I was swallowed by this style……text.

I turned the page.

<Magic is equal to Interest. That is the primary fact that is needed for an Acquired Type. What things they care about, agree about, hate about, dream about, long about, lament about, revere about, swear about, wish about. What they believe in always exists in their body. The <God's Grace> only displayed the most pristine part inside your hearts.> An <Image> appeared.

There was a face. Eyes. Nose. Mouth. Ears. It was a human's face.

It was created from the compilation of dark handwriting, it was a human's face that had his eyes closed. The face of the article.

I turned the page.

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<If you want, then you just have to ask. If you want, then you just have to shatter it.

If you want, then you just have to sit up and take notice of it. The mirror

that does not allow any deception has been prepared. > No. It is <My Face>. It was my own face where nothing exists above my head.

No. It is a <Mask>. The other face of me. The one I don't know, the other consciousness.

I turned the page.

<Then, let's begin>

The closed eyes opened. I heard my own voice.

The crimson eyes, that were compiled by the text, seem to penetrate me. The small lips that were from short texts began to weave out words.

I turned the page.

<To me, What is Magic?>

I don't know.

But, it was something unclear yet powerful.

An Ultimate Move to defeat Monsters. The Mystery that allows Heroes to Rise Up from the Dead.

Powerful, Filled with Momentum, Compassionless, Overwhelming.

A Wish that I Desire to Attempt Once, a Pure Aspiration.

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I turned the page.

<To me, Magic is?>

A Powerful Strength.

A Great Weapon that can Destroy the Weak me.

A Mighty Weapon that can Inspire the Weak me.

It is not a Heavy Shield of a Guardian, Nor is it a Gorgeous object like Healing Hands.

A Heroes' Power to Break Through the Obstacles in Front of Their Path.

I turned the page.

<To me, What Kind of Thing is Magic?>

Thing?

What Kind of Thing is Magic?

When I hear about Magic, it must be Flames. The Very First Thing that Comes into my Mind was Flames.

Powerful, Violent, Blazing.

Able to Burn Up Grass Fields, Rousing Up Ashes, An Anxious Atmosphere, Like Waves Swallowing Everything, Swaying the Sun's Rays, Something that does not Match the Weak me, Bright Red Flames.

Warmer than Anything Else, It Will Absolutely Never Go Out…… Immortal

Flames.

I Wanted to Become Flames.

<What Do You Wish to Pursue with Magic?>

To Become Stronger, To Head Towards that Person's Side.

To Become More Agile, To Head Towards that Person's Side.

Like a Flash of Light Passing Through the Gaps Between the Clouds.

Like Riding a Lightning Bolt in the Sky.

More Than Anyone, More Than Anyone, More Than Anyone,

More Than Anyone, It Must Be More Agile.

To Head Towards that Person's Side.

To Head Into that Person's Eyes.

<Only These?>

If It Was Possible, If It Was Possible, If It Was Possible.

I Want to Become a Hero.

I Wanted to Become a Hero, That I Have Always Longed For Since That Time, and Which I Have Still Dreamed Upon Like a Fool.

Like Them Who Appeared in the Myths, A Hero that Everyone Praises and

Approves.

Even if it was a Shameless Delusion, Even if it was Vanity that would Cause Nausea, Even if it was a Dream that Would Not Match Me to A Miserable Extent.

I, Wanted To Become a Hero, That Would Be Recognized by That Person.

<How Childish.>

……Sorry.

<But, That is Me.>

The me in the book, finally smiled.

Following this, my consciousness was plunged into darkness.

× × ×

“……kun……ell-kun”

I can hear a voice.

Echoing within my pitched-black consciousness, a warm and beautiful voice resounded in my ears.

It feels a bit itchy, and the light penetrated this darkness.

“Bell-kun!”

The next moment, I woke up.

“Ah……K…Kami-sama?”

“Ah ah, yes, it’s me. What is it, why are you lying down on the table? If you wanted to sleep, then can’t you go to a more proper location?”

Towards Kami-sama’s face that was sticking closely, I could only use my sleeping eyes to glance around. Then I raised my face to observe the surroundings.

It was the headquarters. The room hidden in the church. The time is ……7 at night.

It was already night time.

I thought that I was not able to operate my head properly and confirmed the situation again.

“Were you reading a book? Haha, doing things that you were not accustomed to, and, in the end, you gradually lost to sleep?”

“Oh……Ah, yes……It should be, I guess?”

……I fell asleep?

The book that I borrowed from Seal-san was still lying open on the

table.

I finished reading it……?

Pressing onto my temple. It seems as if my mind was shaken and it feels that there was some dissonance.

What passed through my mind were a few ambiguous memories. It was just like a daydream, where it lacked a sense of reality.

Who did I talk to? What was I asked? Also, are the remnants of my memories only a dream?

Not good, it was too confusing……

“Haha, so cute. Being able to see Bell-kun’s funny face, myfatigue from work has been blown away.”

“F…Funny……”

“Fufu. Quickly eat dinner now”

I was both dejected and embarrassed about that excessive speech, but Kami-sama had a smile on her face and walked to the closet.

Until Kami-sama had finished changing her clothes, I was waiting outside the room. I waited until a “It’s already okay” tiny face probed from the door. Then I began to prepare for tonight’s dinner. Although I was obviously back first, I did not prepare anything yet, so I felt a bit guilty. However, when we were standing together in the kitchen, Kami-sama’s was happy and her cheeks were blushing. I followed and revealed a smile.

“Bell-kun, what is that thick book? It can’t be that you bought it right?”

“Being asserted by you, I will also feel sad……Yes, I borrowed from an

acquaintance.”

“Ah, let me also have a look later. It is rare to have a chance to see such an ancient book. Perhaps I should say my fingers are twitching”

“After all, Kami-sama loves books the most”

After clearing up the simple dinner, rotated for our shower, then it was time to update my ＜Status＞ today again. Compared to before, the frequency of updates has increased recently.

Kami-sama also seemed to have finally gotten accustomed to the work at

＜Hephaestus's Familia＞'s branch. She seemed to be very relaxed and was able to squeeze out more time.

While Kami-sama took a needle to allow her finger to let out God's Blood, I removed my shirt and laid down on the bed.

"Nnn～……Nnnnnnn? ……Muuuuuu?"

"K…Kami-sama……Did my proficiency growth rate change?"

"……Ahhh, it did not change. Your condition is excellent, we can only describe your growth speed like that"

I inquired in fear towards Kami-sama, who was issuing tangling sounds, what heat the back of my head was an unpleasant voice.

She's still angry……No, perhaps it is again?

It feels like recently every time we update ＜Status＞, there is this kind of feeling……

"Ahhh yes, you're just so stubborn. Yes, I know, if it is only this much you will not change your heart"

Kami-sama was muttering complaints that were difficult to respond to.

There was nothing I can do. I could only leave my body in this impending heart atmosphere.

I don't know why from behind, *Chiku, Chiku,* what seem to be like intentionally stabbing me with a needle constantly occurred.

Huh, Ah, O…Ouchhhh!?

"Kami-sama, it hurts! That was definitely intentional, right!?"

"Hmm—mph"

“It is not, Hmm—mph!?”

I complained sorrowfully, Kami-sama only gave an unknown reply and used the needle to poke my head again. Forcefully.

Besides from crying onto the pillow, I could not make any resistance towards Kami-sama’s behavior.

Uuuuuu, lying down like this is really painful.

“……Nnnn, aside from ＜Endurance＞, Although all the stats are approaching towards S, but as expected, it is not maintaining the same growth as before.”

“……Is that right?”

“Ahah. Nnnn, even if it is like that, it is still considered as an exception……”

The highest rank for the Basic Abilities in ＜Status＞ is S. As it approaches the upper limits, the proficiency growth rate will also dramatically reduce. It seems that there will also be situations where defeating hundreds of monsters, it will still not matter.

In my case, my proficiency also had the phenomenon of a reduced growth. It can be said that the growth rate decreased, but why not say that I was still continued to successfully increase my abilities.

Just like Kami-sama had said, it was currently growing as an exception……

“……”

“……Kami-sama?”

Towards Kami-sama, who stopped her mouth and hands, I felt surprised.

I called her once, then I waited……

“……Magic”

“Huh?”

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She replied with incredible words.

“Eeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeehh!?”

“Ebuni!?”

I lifted up my waist.

Towards the shocking contents, I straightened up my upper body like a shrimp.

At the same time, Kami-sama who was sitting on my waist was ejected from it, and fell out of the bed. And fell with a posture of her head on the ground.

“Huh, Ahh!?

“K…Kami-sama!? S…Sorry, are you not hurt!?”

“D…Did not think that you would retaliate like that……N…Not bad, Bell-kun……

Kami-sama, who was still maintaining the posture of falling headfirst below the bed, held back her tears and trembled.

C…Compared to this……Her boobs were currently going against gravity……!?

Huh, that’s not right!?

While having great reverence towards the unmoving boobs, I rescued Kami-sama.

Towards the big commotion that descended upon the ＜Hestia’s Familia＞, I could only apologize with a Dogeza.

Learning about the details of the ＜Status＞ was something later.

Bell Cranel

Lv. 1

Strength: **B 701** -> **B 734**

Endurance : **G 287** -> **F 355**

Dexterity: **B 715** -> **B 719**

Agility: **B 799** -> **A 817**

Magic: **I 0**

＜Magic＞

[Fire Bolt]

□ ***Speed Cast Magic***

＜Skill＞

[ ]

“……!”

I had to use all my strength to suppress my voice

While holding the paper, that Kami-sama have passed over, with trembling hands, I desperately bit onto my lips in order to suppress my joy.

My eyes sparkled, even if I did not look, I also knew that the corner of my mouth have revealed a dumb smile.

“Even learning Magic……That Skill will also affect Magic? Nnnn, I don’t

understand”

Unlike me, Kami-sama was frowning and had her hands propped under her chin and was deep in thought.

She was also rotating from staring at my back and my face, but this does not matter.

“K…Kami-sama……It’s Magic, Magic……!? I, became able to use Magic……!”

“Yes, I know. Congratulations, Bell-kun”

Regardless of everything, I was able to cheer up.

I could feel the heat surging through my body. My body feels extremely hot.

It felt as if tears were about to leak out from my eyes. That was the extent on how moved I was.

“……Making a big fuss out of a small thing, saying this would be a little too unromantic, right”

Beside me, who was holding firmly the paper and squatting down, it feels that Kami-sama revealed a wry smile.

Happy. I was really happy. I also finally became able to use Magic.

That Magic! The Ultimate Technique that Heroes use in the books, That Magic!

“Although I’m sorry to pour cold water over you, but it is still best to quickly observe this Magic. There is a place that I was somewhat concerned”

“Yes!”

I stood up and shouted.

I have to temporarily calm myself down, I said to myself. Deep breathes, let the excitement within body to calm down.

“Okay now? In summary, Magic is something that will need an

＜Chant＞ in order to activate. You should know this at least right?”

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Towards Kami-sama’s question, I gave a decisive nod.

All magics are required to have the user’s mouth to interweave different incantations to activate its effect.

The Magic Production Procedure ＜Chant＞ is equivalent to assembling a cannon’s barrel. Once it is finished, then you could place the cannonball inside. In other words, the larger the size of the assembled cannon’s barrel, the longer the time the ＜Chant＞ is. The cannonball size will also become larger and the destructive power also increases.

Conversely, although the smaller the cannon’s barrel, the weaker the power is, but the time to ＜Chant＞ is also reduced accordingly. Thus, allowing it to be convenient to instantly activate it.

“Entering the topic now. According to what my friends have said, the Chant text when learning the Magic will also be displayed in the Magic Window in the ＜Status＞. If you see that, then you will also know the trigger for the Magic”

“Huh……But this format on the paper did not record any ＜Chant＞……”

“Yes, that’s it. Right, don’t think that it was me who forgot to write it down, oh?”

The Magic Window writing ＜Fire Bolt＞ did not have any Chant that existed. This caused it to have no clues on finding how to activate the Magic.

I racked my brains thinking, then Kami-sama said out her own view.

“This after is completely my own speculation. Based on the detailed information from the Window, the contents that about Bell-kun’s Magic……Perhaps it does not need a Chant”

I stopped my actions, then I once again stared at the format on the paper as if I was about to swallow it.

Nowhere did it mention any incantation Chant. The only information

was ＜Speed Cast Magic＞, this simple explanation.

……I also hope that Kami-sama's speculation was true. Rather, there was no other possibility that I could think of aside for this.

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"Although we still do not know the strength, but the time required Chant is ……＜Speed Cast Magic＞. I believe that I am not wrong about this."

"T…Then if that's what you say, this ＜Fire Bo…..Muuguu"

Kami-sama used her gentle hands to block my mouth.

Kami-sama, who straightened her back, stared at me.

"……It is still better to not casually call out the name of the Magic"

"Muuguu?"

"Although we are still not sure about the trigger, in the worst case scenario, as long as you say ＜Fire Bolt＞, the Magic might activate"

My face gradually turned pale. Although the effects were still unknown, but if we were to activate Magic in this place, then our headquarters would be wiped out.

Understood? Towards Kami-sama's confirmation, I nodded my head.

My mouth was liberated.

"In the end, it is still a speculation. What is correct cannot be confirmed yet……Just try it out tomorrow in the dungeon. This way, you will be clear about this Magic that belongs to you"

"Eh, tomorrow……?"

"Hey hey, do you plan to go to the Dungeon now? Didn't you already shower?

Even if you are not that anxious, your Magic won't grow legs and run away, right?"

"Ah, yes……That's true"

Towards Kami-sama, who looked over here with a wry smile, I gave off a stiff nod.

It was already late at night. Kami-sama used a hand to cover her yawn. It seems like she had reached the peak of her fatigue from work and we soon went to sleep.

Looking at Kami-sama, who after brushing her teeth and threw herself limply to the bed, I turned off the lights.

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I also lay down on the sofa and entered the dream land……

(Sorry, Kami-sama)

……What… it was impossible to do it.

My vision was abnormally clear. How could I sleep in this state.

I jumped off the sofa. While confirming the faint breathing sounds of Kami-sama, I placed my entire equipment into a backpack and left the room, trying hard not to disturb her.

I swiftly wore my equipment outside and placed the backpack on the stairs of the Church. I went outside.

(I want to use it immediately!)

To the stars and the moon that was overlooking the Main Street Area. From the lights that leaked out from the shop's windows, it illuminated a fever-like red face.

As if using the drunk demi-humans' bustling sounds as a melody, I swiftly headed forward.

Orario still hasn't sleep. I also, haven't been able to sleep.

The white skyscraper in front was gradually becoming larger. I could not help but laugh enthusiastically.

Flying into Babel's 1st floor, followed by the vertical descent underground.

The hole in the floor that connects to the dungeon. I followed the

spiral staircase and ran down as if I was rolling down it. In the middle, I even went pass the handrail and jumped downwards to the center of the hole.

The air was tearing and with a *don* sound, I landed. There was a comfort feeling that came from the vibrations that surged through my legs.

I started from the 1st floor of the dungeon.

"……"

Sa, I stopped.

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In the spacious one-way path. Directly in the center of my sight was a short, fat green figure that was shaking alone.

(Based on this condition……)

The target was a moderate size. The distance was also not bad. It was perfect.

I swallowed large amounts of saliva. I rubbed my shirt with he hands that were soaked with sweat.

The Goblin also noticed me. It roared while, *dondon,* rushing over.

I only *Gu, Pa,* opened and closed my hands, then my wrist arm was stretched directly at the Goblin.

"……"

My heart's beating was stuck in my eardrum.

The pent up nervousness, anxiety and anticipation, all of it was pressed onto my shoulders.

I took a shallow breath.

I lifted my eyebrow to the limit, and roared.

" <Fire Bolt>!"

The next moment, a scarlet light covered my sight.

“!?”

What was shot out was a scarlet lightning.

No, it was a lightning-shaped flames.

The described sharp, yet irregular flames pierced through the Goblin’s body.

My eyes could only chase up till there.

The instant the lightning flames hit the Monster, a dazzling light burst out.

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It was like an orange flower blooming out.

“……”

Its entire body was charcoaled. The Goblin, with smoke rising from him, fell down onto the ground with white eyes. The last remaining moan echoed through the Dungeon tunnels.

“……Can’t be”

It came out. Really.

My own Magic.

I, who was frozen in place, maintained the posture of my hand stretched out while staring at my palms.

These slender hands. The calluses that remained due to the farm work was vividly exposed.

The hands that I was already used to seeing. Nothing had change.

But, it came out.

From this hand, Magic.

“……H…Haha”

Recognizing this, I felt unsatisfied.

My entire body was boiling. I clenched my opened palm and made a fist.

(Yes……!)

A sure feeling. I indeed had moved forward.

It was different than the values of my <Status>. It was a huge change that I could see with my own eyes, a feeling that I have once again took another step towards that person.

Fire Bolt. Lightning Flames.

The activation was instant, its speed was the speed of light, and the firepower was absolute.

More agile than anyone, a flame Magic.

The Magic that belongs to only me.

“~~~

The moment I found a Monster, I stretched out my arm.

“Fire Bolttttt!”

“*EBUSHIII”*

Just like a child shouting out loudly

“Fire Bolttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttt!!”

“PUGYAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA!?”

The moment I see them, the moment they explode.

“Fire Bolt!” “Fire Bolt!” “Fire Bolt!” “Fire Bolt!” “Fire Bolt!” “Fire Bolt!” “Fire Bolt!” “Fire Bolt!” “Fire Bolt!”

“ “ “ “ “ “ “ “ “ “ *CHOOO*～!?” ” ” ” ” ” ” ” ”

Unrestrained fireworks hit numerously, and hit numerously chaotically.

“Ah, I already came to the 5th floor……”

No no no, I had a smile on my face and swiftly looked around.

Due to the fact that the light blue dungeon walls have become light green, there was no doubt that this place has gone beyond the 4th floor.

I was overly intoxicated by it, I could only think about this and reflected upon myself while I turned around.

It was almost time to go back, I hummed while I took a step.

“——Nnnnn?”

Not long, a strange feeling hit me.

The inner part of my sight let out a crisp sound.

“Eh……?”

This happened suddenly.

Although I have never drank wine, but probably, this was the feeling known as being tipsy.

I could not stand properly. It was unclear that whether I was standing on the ground or not.

After my vision shook a few times, I finally saw the approaching ground and I gradually lost consciousness.

× × ×

"……?"

"What is it, Aizu"

The two Adventurers had just entered the 5th floor.

Only, they were not coming from above, but from below.

There were no obvious injuries. Aizu and Riveria was walking at a steady pace. It took them around 3 days to return here from the Deep Floor Area's 37th floor.

Naturally, there was no need to talk about the long trip for them heading towards the ground level. Despite that they were under the threat of Monsters attacking them for an entire day, there were no signs of fatigue showing on the two of them.

They were currently in the state where they did not have to spend a lot of time to leave the Dungeon. After reaching here, Aizu, who was in front, suddenly stopped.

Riveria inquired towards the figure with golden hair that flowed downwards.

"There is a person fallen there"

"Did he get killed by a Monster"

Looking to the center of the room, an Adventurer was currently lying down there.

The two of them approached the place where it seems like there was a traveler that seemed to have died in an accident.

“There are no external injuries. There is no need to heal or detoxify……It is the typical mental exhaustion”

The result of recklessly using Magic. This was simply the conclusion of Riveria, who squated down and examined him.

Magic isn’t something that you can use without any cost. It was similar to stamina.

It was something that was activated by using your mental power. Of course, just like how stamina that has a limit, mental power also can be bottomed out.

He really dared to make himself unconscious, Riveria felt both fear and admiration.

On the other hand, Aizu, with a posture of her hands resting on her lap, stared at the white hair behind the head of the Adventurer.

“This child……”

“What, an acquaintance, Aizu?”

“Yes, although I have not directly spoken to……That, it was the Minotaur we mentioned last time……”

“……I see. So that idiot was this boy”

Riveria seem to have found the connecting points and expressed her understanding.

She had heard from Aizu about this boy’s, Bell, situation. The good-for-nothing that was chased by the Minotaur, fleeing after being mocked inside the bar a few days ago. She, herself, was also present there.

Although Riveria was not involved in the dialogue. Although she did not know that Bell was also at the scene, she was still reflecting that she was not able to stop it immediately. They did something terrible to him.

And above her, Aizu, who created the start of this incident, would feel even guiltier.

“Riveria. I want to compensate this child.”

“……There must be something else you want to say.”

It was too stiff, after exchanging gaze with Riveria, who sighed, Aizu blinked two or three times.

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Looking at the girl that did not understand anything, Riveria decided to give up, and had nothing more to say.

“Nnnn, at this time, providing help is also a natural etiquette……”

Beside Aizu, who nodded like a small animal, Riveria maintained her squatting posture and stared at Bell.

After confirming that he would temporarily not wake up, she swiftly stared at the girl.

“……Aizu, do what I say to the boy. As compensation, I feel that this is enough”

“What?”

Riveria clearly conveyed the contents.

“……Doing this kind of thing is enough?”

“I am not sure. However, you also protected him here, so you’ve already done your duty……And, if it is you, there shouldn’t be a man that will feel unhappy that exists.”

“I still, don’t understand……”

It does not matter if you do not understand, Riveria said with a wry smile.

Aizu, who was in deep thought after being stared at temporarily like by a mother, soon set up a stern expression.

Returning back to her usual expression, she stood up.

“I also have to head back. If I stay behind, I will only get in the way. If you want to settle it, then take advantage of the time when you two

are alone”

“Yes. Thank you, Riveria”

Ahhhh, after Riveria gave suggestions, she left.

What Monster’s existence, there was absolutely no worries at all.

After all, protecting the boy was the strongest guardian that no one can match.

201

× × ×

I was comfortably dozing off.

As if the fragrance of the wind in a valiant sunny day hit my face, and the warmth from the sunlight.

Through my skin, I feel that tinges of a warm and mild atmosphere.

I want to sleep.

I want to be always hugged by this feeling.

(……?)

Gently, my hair was stroked. The slender fingers that touched my forehead made it itchy.

It was a gentle. It made me feel at ease.

I timidly openly my closed eyes.

(……Mom?)

I called the name of the person I do not know the appearance of, and the person that I have not seen before.

What greeted me was a hazy outline that suddenly stopped its action.

(Sorry. I am not your mother……)

(……Eh)

The person replied me with a clear voice.

The blurred vision gradually became clear.

The body lines were slowly shown.

The first thing that formed was the dazzling golden hair, followed by a beautiful and dignified face.

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Last of all, it was the same color of her hair, the golden eyes.

“……”

“Are you awake……?”

I was completely awake. My head.

But time still stopped.

My head was completely blank. I could only stare at the face of that person that was looking at me.

The back of my head, it was very soft. Very warm.

I could already guess what I have done. Certainly, probably, a lap pillow.

That person……Wallenstein’s fingers was still combing my hair.

The eyelids that were touched was currently very hot.

“……”

I slowly lifted up my upper body.

Although I felt unfortunate about the warmth from behind my head gradually disappearing, but I should still stand up.

She disappeared from my vision. Instead what entered my vision was numerous beheaded Monster corpse.

I pretend that I did not see anything and turned around. Wallenstein-san still did not disappear.

“……An Illusion?”

“……Not an illusion”

Nnn, Wallenstein-san’s expression changed. Her finely shaped eyebrows was slightly tilted.

Since then, we have been staring at each other’s eyes.

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The crimson eyes exchanged gaze with the golden eyes. Just when she revealed confusion towards the silent atmosphere. Her head began to see that I was gradually turning red. When Wallenstein-san noticed this, it had already turned into a ripe apple.

I could not focus. My eyes were currently like earthworms on a plate and was constantly revolving.

I stood up with full momentum.

“____

DAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA

AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA

AAAAAA!?”

I desperately fled.

“……Why do you always flee?”

If someone heard this, it was indeed a somewhat lonely whisper.

酒神 ヨヤ

Chapter 4: God's Wine

“Please”

“Okay”

The decoration was placed onto the counter. Wearing a red hat, the Gnome owner sporting a white beard, held the embedded jade jewelry into the depths of the shop.

The Gnome’s Miscellaneous Goods Shop. In this antique shop with an uncreative name, it was engaged in small scale business transactions today.

Inside the shop with numerous decorations, the customer Hobbit was quietly standing, surrounded by items that lack any uniformity.

“Ararara, I’ve made you wait”

“How is it?”

“It has been beautifully given ＜Status＞ support……to poison effects. It is high class. So…… How about 48000 Varisu?”

Towards the owner’s words, the Hobbit nodded with satisfaction. The trade was established.

“Do I have to pay with cash today?”

“No, it is fine if it’s the same as usual”

The negotiations occurred in a bland manner.

The large clock that was tilted inside the shop, had the sound of its hand swinging spread between them.

“This old man, although I can’t say I am a great Gnome……”

Slowly, the Gnome owner spoke.

Ignoring the customer who tilted his head, he played around with his

decorations using his hand and after a short period of them, he continued to speak.

“It is still better not to put your head into something overly dangerous. Although it may have been too late by now.”

“……”

“Although the general public does not know to this extent, this has been spreading among the Adventurers that there is a dishonest Hobbit that steals belongings. He would occasionally even empty the whole team”

“……What are you saying?”

“Nothing, also,I am not doubting you. That Hobbit is a female, and it seems to be a repeated offender. To you, who is a male, these words may indeed be said to the wrong target”

Only, the Gnome owner moved his white beard.

“I heard that all the items that were stolen, almost all of them were appraised by this old man’s eyes……Isn’t it? This old man was thinking that it may be better to not overdo something if you want to have a relationship with your friends”

Throwing a sinister sight at the owner’s words, the male Hobbit revealed a slightly arrogant expression and exposed a smile.

“It seems like there is a rather malevolent Hobbit. But even if they say this, what’s the problem, the Adventurer-sama shouldn’t be qualified to talk about other, right?

Most of them are also doing dirty acts. Aren’t they similar? Robbing, or intimidating”

“That is, Nnnnn…….”

“If it was me, I might also want to say this. Do not turn a blind eye to your own actions”

In the end, the Hobbit customer gave off a faint laugh.

“It might be cruel, but it is still the side that got tricked was still at fault”

Nnn, the distressed moan by the owner was absorbed by the sorrowful sound of the large-sized clock.

× × ×

“Ugguuuuu～……!”

“……What are you doing, Bell-kun?”

I maintained my posture of lying down on the sofa, while pressing a cushion onto my head. Although Kami-sama was confused about the meaning of my posture that covered the head, but not the body, I couldn’t answer her.

I fled from Wallenstein-san back there.

While I had no clue how that situation evolved like that, the only thing that I was clear about was that everything was real. Whether it was that the person I look up to did a lap pillow, or me, acting like a big idiot as usual, and fleeing with all my strength.

Nnnnnnnnnnnnnnnnnnnnnnnnn……I want to die,

ahhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhh……

“Is it that, you wet the bed?”

“NO～”

If it was usual, I would ferociously reply back. But right now, I could only issue an unpromising sound.

After the atmosphere of shame and confusion that appeared in front of that person had disappeared, where I went, how I got there, I already completely forgot about it. When I had already noticed, it was already night time. When I noticed it, I was already dragging my body back to the door of our base, as if I had lost my soul.

“Ha. Although I do not know what happened, but you are really still a melancholy and moody child……”

It is not melancholy and moody, Kami-sama, it is painfully heartbroken.

I, who slowly got up, still had my ears red. Anyways, I should eat breakfast together with Kami-sama.

Although I thought about continuing to be depressed, but, as I expected, it wouldn't work. The matter about Wallenstein-san, I should forget about it for today……What, it was probably impossible.

When will the day come when I will thank and apologize for this day.

"Right. Bell-kun, let me see the book from yesterday. I am very free until noon"

"Ah, yes. No problem."

Kami-sama seems to have her work shift at noon today. In addition to

＜Hephaestus's Familia＞'s job, she was continuing her work at the stall……Is her body okay?"

I handed the heavy book that I borrowed from Seal-san towards Kami-sama.

"Fuu, the more I look at it, the more I feel that it is a strange book, wha……?"

Staring at the cover, Kami-sama simply browsed through it and suddenly stopped her action.

Just as I was thinking about it, her corner of her eyes twitched. As if a problem that she did not know about had occurred.

Eh……?W…What?

"……Isn't this a Magic Guidance Book?

"Magic Guidance Book?"

I spoke the never heard words like a parrot.

The nasty premonition had already become sweat and exposed onto my face.

"W…What is that thing, that……?"

"In short, it is a book that forces mastery of Magic……"

I felt that another of my sweat glands had opened up inside my body.

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“If I talked about ＜Development Ability＞, you will not understand. Anyways, this book can only be created by a person who had reached the limits of the rare skills ＜Way of Magic＞ and ＜Mystery＞……”

——I understand what you mean, Kami-sama.

The achiever of two types of ＜Development Ability＞……This means they will be at least a Lv.3 or above ＜Familia＞ member. And this book is the work of a person who was far stronger than those Adventurers……

Probably, it was similar to the person known as the ＜Sage-sama＞ in the legends, that poured its soul……

I revealed a petrified and broken smile.

“This is the reason why you obtained Magic, right……By the way, Bell-kun, how did this Magic Book end up in this place?”

“I borrowed it from an acquaintance……It seems like it was something that someone dropped……”

“……”

“Is it very expensive……”

“The same as ＜Hephaestus’s Familia＞’s top class goods, or perhaps even more……”

Bikiri, cracks appeared from my petrified body.

“Incidentally, the effects will disappear after reading it once. Once you used it, it is only a heavy and useless book……”

It’s over.

The expensive book that condensed magic to externally interfere and obtain a ＜Miracle＞. Not only was it casually flipped open and read, the one-time use was also consumed. The thing that was worth millions of Varisu was wasted by me……

A gloomy silence enveloped the headquarters.

210

I, who had done this irreparable act, could only despair.

Kami-sama, as if she was wearing a mask to wipe out any emotions, pulled over a chair and walked in front of me shortly. She stood up and placed her hands onto my shoulders and said to me from above.

“Listen carefully okay, Bell-kun? If you suddenly meet the owner of the lost book, before it was read, just directly hand it over to the owner. As long as the book is not in your hands, it does not exists the possibility of using the Magic Book in the first place……That’s how it will go”

“That’s too black hearted, Kami-sama!?”

Why would you want to brush it off so normally!?

“Bell-kun, there are many things that aren’t perfect in the Lower World. I have personally witnessed it. Just like being chased out from the place where I was living, not being able to buy potato croquettes when I’m hungry, being held up in the basement of a ruin……being forced to hold a large debt. There are so many things that do not make sense in this world”

“Isn’t this all Kami-sama’s fault!?”

Rather, isn’t the last sentence too unlucky!?

Why did you hide it and not say anything, Kami-sama!

“A…Anyways, I will explain it clearly to the person that lent me the book!”

“Bell-kun, no, you are too pure! The world is even more fickle than the gods!”

“Don’t give out false words at this moment!? Hiding it, won’t it be revealed one day for sure!”

There was already no path to take! Not only will Seal-san ask whether if he had read the book, even if we continue to lie, it will be over the moment the owner of the book appears!

Since things have progressed to this point, why not directly confess to it without being secretive, and gamble using ＜Dogeza＞!

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I rejected Kami-sama's advanced to stop me, and single-handedly carried the book and rushed out the headquarter's door.

"Is Seal-san here!"

"Ohoh, this nyaa is the boy. Morning nyaaa"

At the entrance of the wine bar ＜Mistress of Abundance＞, a female catperson, who was sweeping the ground, talked with me.

Indeed, it is the shop personnel called Chloe right, her tail behind her was shaking left and right and revealed a smile towards me as if she was up to something bad.

"Nyaa what, nyaa what? You did not even say a greeting and you want to call Seal nyaa, so full of vigor in the early morning――"

"Please help me call Seal-san!!"

"――Nyaaa!? I understand, nyaa!?"

Towards my menacing look and desperate cries, Chloe-san jumped up surprisingly.

Was it because she noticed that I was unusual, she hurried inside the shop. The doorbell issued out a crisp sound.

Quickly, Chloe-san leaned out her head from the door and beckoned me over.

I stepped into the shop that was still in preparation.

"Good morning, Bell-san. Is there any problem?"

"Seal-san!"

Seal-san, who was, *patapata*, running over quickly from the kitchen to this direction, was still holding a wooden tray.

Towards Seal-san, who had a bandana equipped on her light-rust

colored hair, I began to explain the situation from start to the end.

Seal-san, who was revealing a confused smile, gradually began to widened her eyes as the topic advanced, and at the same time, the color of her face was constantly changing……Until I was finished, I, as usual, looked away.

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"……Really now, you did something incredible, Bell-san"

"Wait a minute Seal-san!? Why are you talking as if it was somebody else's matter!?"

Towards the unnatural attitude, I could not help but frantically shout out. It feels like I was treated as the sheep for the sacrifice.

Seal-san lifted the tray that she was holding onto and covered her lower face, she stared at me carefully.

"So, it's not okay?"

"Although it is very cute, but no!"

I made a clean break towards Seal-san's petition with a red face.

"It's really annoying, brat. In someone else's shop, and also this early in the morning"

We had launched a question at the spot, was it because she heard the commotion, but I do not know why the female boss Auntie Mia appeared. Regardless of the dwarf's identity, she, who had a strong body, easily pulled out the book from me, who was frozen , and casually flipped through it.

"Indeed it is a Magic Guidance Book……But if it was already read, then there is no other way. Brat, do not mind it"

"Ehhh!? B…But……"

"Originally, it was the fault of the person who placed it in the shop as if he was saying please read this book. Even if you, brat, did not read it, a nearby Adventurer who noticed this precious Magic Guidance Book, will aim for this book claiming that it was his own item. This is that kind of thing."

Towards the mysterious persuasiveness, I kept silent and listened, Mia-san issued a hum from her nose.

“The moment the owner let go of it, he should already have the resolve. Brat, you too, if you lost your wallet stuffed with money, will you imagine that someone will return it back to you untouched?”

213

“That……”

“That’s the case here. Even if you continue to think about it, it will go nowhere.

Just pretend that it was a treat from the sky and quickly forget about it.”

Auntie Mia rightfully declared it.

Seal-san, who was looking beside her, was also plagued with a wry smile expression. Her head was tilted to the side.

Should I say that it feels like it was too ambiguous. In the end, I still revealed an unaccepting expression……and was stared fiercely by Auntie Mia. She said, “If you are a man, then don’t murmur nonstop!”.

Towards that loud roar, I reflexively stood up straight stunned, “Yes!?” and expressed my understanding.

While sending off Auntie Mia, who disappeared into the depths of the store, I wondered if this is really okay.

Using my hand to scratch my head, my emotions were somewhat complicated.

“……That, I’m very sorry, I caused trouble. Then, I’ll leave now”

After a period of time, I said this, and prepared to return. Seal-san took the basket from Chloe-san, who suddenly approached……and timidly handed it out to me.

“Today, can you also accept it?”

“……T…Thanks”

While I stammered out my thanks, I took the basket with both hands with an embarrassed smile.

Although I usually always feel that it was rude, but whenever it was during this moment, Seal-san always seemed to be very happy. It felt that an unusual joy was also slipped in……No, although it does not mean that I was normally not

happy……Why, it was impossible to use words to describe it well.

I blushed while thanking again. This time, I really left the ＜Mistress of Abundance＞.

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Once I returned to the headquarters, I placed down the Magic Guidance Book, in order to wear the equipment to explore the dungeon.

After explaining the situation at the wine bar to Kami-sama, she sent me away with a gentle voice, “Safe trip”.

(Speaking of which, my recovery potion was used up right……?)

As I was walking down the street, I suddenly remembered the situation regarding my items. Three days ago, I had used up all my recovery potions in the dungeon exploration. My pouch strapped on my left thigh was beautifully empty.

(I was also taken care of a lot by them up till now……Should I make a trip?) On the path heading towards the dungeon, I decided to visit the shop that I had neglected for a long time.

The shop location was situated at the West Main Street’s outer area, in the depths of an alley.

A single building was built alone in a slightly damp land, it had a logo of a ＜Familia＞ that seems to imitate a complete bodied human, as if it was a decoration for the sign.

“Excuse me, good morning……”

Peeking in through the slightly pried open wooden doors, a female beastman was currently looking at the items on the shelves inside this slightly dim shop. She noticed me and turned her half-closed eyes to

this side.

“Good morning, Bell. Long time no see……”

Although the sleepy voice coupled with the sleepy expression makes it easy for others to think that she had just woken up, but this is this person’s usual state.

Above her skirt that her tail was sticking out from, she was wearing a strange shirt with short-sleeves on the left and long-sleeves on the right. Her right hand was even wearing a glove. Although her age range was similar to Eina-san, but the petite figure stopped what she was doing and moved to the counter where it was located in the depths of the shop.

“I’m really sorry for coming this early in the morning. Is it fine right now?”

“It does not matter. After all, even if Bell goes back, there will not be any customers……Then, what are you buying today?”

She, who was separated by the counter, suddenly pulled out a box from who knows where and placed it onto the table.

Inside the large box, tubes filled with different colors of liquid were arranged in an orderly manner.

“Speaking of which, where is Miach-sama? Not here?”

“Miach-sama has some personal business until evening. Today I am the only one……”

I asked and obtained this kind of response while I was comparing the tubes……the various recovery potion.

This is the <Miach’s Familia>’s shop that was led by Miach-sama, and at the same time, it is their base. Then, the other member that belonged to <Miach’s Familia> was her, Naaza-san.

She used her hand to take out a recovery potion that seemed to have a high purity, and patiently tried to sell it to me.

“Bell, how about this. Isn’t it time for you to try this <High Class

Recovery Potion＞……”

“N…No thanks, it is still too early for me～”

While being handed a high class recovery potion that costs tens of thousands of Varisu, I politely refused with a twitching smile. It was probably because both sides were from poor ＜Familia＞. Once they have the opportunity, they will desperately promote and we would desperately try to cut down prices. This could already be regarded as a routine.

Although facing the strong-headed Naaza-san, almost all the time, it was my side that was defeated……

“Bell, how come you did not come to our shop recently……”

“Nnnn……!?”

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“Miach-sama was very lonely. His stomach was also growling…… Because he was hungry”

Because after hiring Lili, who took care of everything about the items, I really did not come to this shop for a long period of time. Towards Naaza-san, who seemed to be using lines to use my conscience, I tensed up.

Not good, if this continues, I will be forced to purchase some extra items……

“S…Speaking of which, I had a strange thing happened to me when I entered the dungeon yesterday!?”

I, who attempted to immediately change the subject, began to talk about the situation where I fell unconscious after using Magic in the dungeon yesterday night.

Naaza-san only silently listened and then whispered “Ahhh”.

“That is Mental Exhaustion. It will often happen after people, who had just awakened magic, gets carried away…….”

“Mental Exhaustion……”

“After all, using Magic consumes this energy called Mental Power. When the consumption was too severe, it will lead to sudden fainting.”

So……Naaza-san continued to speak as she rummaged the drawers underneath the counter.

“Just drinking this Recovery Potion that recovers Mental Power, although it is still in the early stages. It was just recently made……”

“Ehh, b…but that is very expensive right……”

“No problem, since Bell is a regular customes, I will discount it a bit for you……8700 Varisu.”

Instantly, I retreated a step away.

“I understand……”

Looking at me like this, Naaza-san had her dog ears drooped from her head, then she took another two tubes out.

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“If you buy this at 8700 Varisu, plus another 2 Recovery Potion, I will only charge you 9000 Varisu……How about it?”

Listening to this proposal, I widened my eyes and quickly clutched my brain and think.

＜Miach’s Familia＞’s Recovery Potions are sold at least for 500 Varisu. If it was just about this point, then this purchase will indeed be cheap. Although 9000

Varisu is still an amount that makes others feel bitter, but if it was an item that could extend the usage time of Magic, then it was indeed very attractive.

Being able to respond to emergency situations was also a condition to becoming a first-class Adventurer……

“In the dungeon, it is impossible to know what will happen. It is still better to keep a hand open……”

This sentence had become the decisive factor.

The timid me weighed money and safety of the team, and chose the latter.

“I understand. Then I’ll buy it”

“Thanks, Bell. Love you……”

Naaza smiled towards me with half-closed eyes, and was not ashamed to have blurt out such words, I blushed while I took the items and hurried to leave.

“So easy, Bell……”

……Although I felt that I heard something when I was leaving, but I did not heard anything. I must be hearing voices, hearing voices.

I, who left the shop, stepped again onto the West Main Street that I walked back and forth all the time, and appeared in the central plaza.

Under the cloudless skies, the wide and round plaza also gathered many fully armed warriors today.

(Still haven’t come yet……?)

218

I attempted to search for Lili’s figure within the plaza, but inside my gaze, there were no beastman girl.

While thinking that it was rare, I headed towards Babel. On the way, a familiar scene appeared.

In the corner of the central plaza that had broadleaf trees planted at equal intervals.

Under the sunlight that passed through the gaps of the leaves, it created a comfortable shade as the wind blew the leaves. Lili and a group of male Adventurers were there.

The three burly men surrounded the petite Lili. They stood with hideous faces while yelling something, Lili used all her effort to turn her face the other way. It was absolutely not a harmonious atmosphere.

——Could it be ＜Soma’s Familia＞’s members?

The moment this thought flashed through my mind,I began to stare intently over there.

“……Enough……Give it to me!”

“Already……don’t have……it! Really……!”

From Lili and the others, the sound of their quarrel continued to spread over here.

I, who was anxious, stood situated behind the broadleaf tree in a dead angle location and was prepared to burst into the scene.

“Hey.”

“!”

However, suddenly.

As if it was to prevent such actions, my shoulder was caught. I turned around in surprise.

A male Adventurer. Equipped with a long sword behind him. A burly black-haired human.

(Huh, this person……)

219

“It really is that brat from that time……Forget it and listen to me. You formed a team with that shorty?”

That voice and tone, it can’t be wrong. It was the male Adventurer that I met a while ago in the alley.

“Hey, quickly give me a reply. You, did you hire that Supporter?”

“……That child isn’t the same child as the Hobbit you were chasing.”

In front of the man who revealed an irritated expression, I replied. It could also be said that half of it was based on my reflex.

Although dressing a large robe and hood that was bigger by 1 size and was difficult to discern, but Lili was not a hobbit but a dog person.

Please do not recognize the wrong person. Although I intended to say this……but the man crooked his lips and laughed.

“Idiot……I will not say it, but what you think is your own choice. Enjoy your idiotic play then.”

While being sprayed with a lot of complaints, but I was more curious about his tone.

This accusation, it feels as if I was being lied upon.

And I did not fully believe the words that the man had said……

I revealed a puzzled look. The man no longer laughed and changed his expression.

“Compared to this, kid, help me out…….to trap that shorty”

“What……”

“I won’t tell you to do it for nothing. I will not only give you a reward and I will also divide half of the money that I get from her.”

The male seems to be seriously saying this. I temporarily became speechless.

220

“You just have to pretend to go to the dungeon with that shorty as usual. Then just casually find a reason to leave for a while and let that guy fall into a trap. It isn’t a big deal right, very simple?”

The man could not help but have the corner of his mouth split open into a smile.

An annoying smile. I felt a despicable atmosphere that I have never felt before.

The chill and disgust quickly arose from inside my body. I tightly clasped my fists.

“Why do you have to say that kind of thing……?”

“Ahah? Very annoying right, but you only have to say “Yes” and nod your head.

After all, you will be able to make money just like this. Isn't it a decent proposal?"

Ha, the man laughed loudly.

"Think it over carefully for me. Isn't that thing only a baggage? She cannot even help out and could only be incompetent. Isn't she of no importance? Squeeze out everything you can squeeze out from her, then discarding her is enough."

My boiling point had already exceeded its limits.

Inside my eyelids, it felt extremely hot.

It was different than the time in the alley. There was no time to even fear, the decisive anger dominated my entire body.

"Absolutely **NOT**……!"

"You brat……!"

The man's face was twisted into a ghost-like momentum to scare people, but I only placed all my strength into my eyebrows.

The tense atmosphere surrounded us. As if from this overflowing anger , it began to fear, the leaves above our head trembled and rustled.

We temporarily glared at each other. Shortly after, the man turned around and walked away speechlessly.

221

With a sinister look in my eyes that I could not remove, I continued to glare at that far away figure.

"……Bell-sama?"

"!?"

A whisper came from behind me

As if she was deeply attracted to me and looked at this side, Lili was currently looking at me stunned, in close proximity.

“L…Lili? When did you get over here?”

“Just right now……What did you say with that Adventurer-sama?”

“That……Nothing much, I was only being picked upon……”

I do not know why I hid the truth and said nothing. In order to hurt the person in front of me, and was being negotiated upon, it was impossible to say it out loud.

Lili, who was staring at my chest moving up and down, tightly closed her lips and exposed a dark expression.

“R…Right! It seems like you were caught up by someone, are you okay Lili!?”

“So you saw……There is no need to worry. As you can see Lili is unscathed”

Lili opened her arms and quickly turned in a circle on the spot. Then, finally, she revealed a smile underneath her hood.

There was no signs of being roughly handled, it seems like she was really not hurt.

I calmed down.

“Lili, those people are……”

“Lili was being picked upon just like Bell-sama. No matter Lili or Bell-sama, looks like we still look so weak, right?

It covered up my voice.

Lili, who was smiling while joking around, clearly rejected further questions.

“Then, let’s hurry Bell-sama. After all, Lili had already been dropped twice for explorations, I am looking forward to Bell-sama’s activeness today, oh?”

Passing through my side, Lili headed towards Babel. Turning around to look at this side, through the swaying bangs I saw the maroon-

colored eyes. It was calm and peaceful as if nothing had happened.

I also did not continue to mention about it. I closed my mouth and silently followed Lili.

What kind of expression is Lili revealing while heading forward, despite the noise from the crowd, I continued to think.

"……Is it already that time"

× × ×

"Ara, Eina is also preparing to leave?"

"Yes. I was planning to"

Eina nodded towards her colleagues' inquiry.

At the guild's headquarters's window side. The reception hall that was located on the first floor, whether it was the floor or the walls, it was covered with white marble and exuded an serious atmosphere. From the sunset's ray that seeped in through the windows, it illuminated this spacious and organized hall.

While looking at the scene of the hall near the window-side, Eina was probably tidying up her work space and stood up from her seat.

"WAA, so punctual!? That Eina would actually end her work at this time, it must be a lie. Could it be because of a man!?"

"Why did it become like this……"

Nono, she waved her hands and gave a wry smile while she faced the lobby with her back.

Then excuse me, after saying this, she turned around and walked through the backdoor only used by employees.

"Then……"

While the plain and simple boots provided by the guild, *toto*, stepped onto ground, Eina took a step in the reverse direction of where her residence was. Although her residence was near the guild's

headquarters, but her destination was not.

Currently, in the North-West Main Street area that was already dyed by the color of the sunset, there were almost no mobile kiosk or street vendors. There were only giant shops that were neatly arranged on both sides of the road. As a street set up for the guild headquarters, the shops here were mainly related to Adventurers.

If the people nearby were to talk about it, in this complex street area, this street could also be called <Adventurer's Street>.

The road was extremely spacious. Even Adventurers, who were wearing heavy armor, could still pass through without touching anyone.

(In the end, just by relying on the information from the guild about <Soma's Familia>, it would not be able to escape from their perspective……)

In the recent days, Eina had been investigating about the internal situation of <Soma's Familia>.

Why, if she was asked about it, she would reply clearly that she was concerned. If she had to add more words to thoroughly explain it, it was because she was worried that Bell was involved in some sort of trouble.

(Even if I was to ask the person in charge of the <Soma's Familia>, the contents that I will hear about will almost be the same……why not try to investigate through my own efforts)

Even if she searched through the reference and gossips collected by the guild, there were no impressive result.

It only revealed that they had an abnormal persistence towards money, a strange atmosphere that caused the members to entered a blind state. The truth on the surface was limited to this. Eina summarized the points while she continued to advance through her thinking.

(The Main God must have incited the <Familia> for his own purposes……No, it feels that point is not exactly right)

It could be called as an impression of the smell of gunpowder, if you want to list out the points about the problems, it would be their dedication to money and the size of the faction itself.

Inside the <Familia>, there were a large number of members that did not correspond to the amount of believers to Soma.

(If the reason was not the God Soma itself? No, if they were attracted by something else, the <Familia> itself……the members are on a rampage?) When she had thought up to this point, Eina temporarily stopped her footsteps.

A large wine bar entered her sight.

“Nnnnn～……If I could enter this place, it would be the best……”

From ancient to modern times, when it comes to collecting intelligence, you will naturally think of bars and the downtown areas.

However, Eina was somewhat tangled about the place.

To her……no, to an elf, the wine bars that gathered numerous Adventurers was mostly gates of hell.

In other words, no matter which race it was, as long as they were male, they would be attracted to them like bees to a flower, and would absolutely not ignore her.

“Ahaha……As I expected, it really won’t work.”

Probably she had imagine what would happen next, Eina gave a wry smile and passed through wine bar that exuded an adult’s atmosphere. Once she heard the rough voices of the Adventurers inside, she slightly increased her pace in panic.

(This is not considered as arrogant……)

Eina was somewhat aware of her own appearance.

Inside her body, the blood that flows was from the elves, it had a reputation for having handsome men and beautiful women. The opposite sex would instantly change their eyes and swarm over them. This was something they had to accept.

(Even though I am not the type that is a bit slow for relationships)

Remembering the moment when she left her workplace, her friend's surprised face when she said was it a man.

Eina did not intend to live alone as an innocent girl that was ignorant of the worldly affairs. She was already 19 years old. It shouldn't be strange if she was in a relationship. She, herself, felt that sometimes this was a slightly empty line.

Was it a mishap from being completely devastated by work.

(But, she had not yet met a person that gave her the impression of <It's this person!>……)

The people that talked with Eina, half of them were robust and lean Adventurers.

To her, it felt that when they were going to hold hands, all of them would make her turn and rotate around, this overly reliable Adventurers.

Just because they were like this, Eina was somewhat fearful.

(Can't they be a little less reliable or what……)

Maybe she wanted a type where everybody wanted to take care of, the type that was ordinary……Eina thought bluntly about this matter.

A person who was plagued by problems, and through his own efforts, and finally plodded over to her side in the end, this kind of person. Eina would smile and take care of him, while thinking it can't be help. The two of them would work together to build up a relationship gradually, a give and take relationship.

Able to rely on their own, or perhaps a person who arouse her desire to protect. To Eina, this was just right.

(Ahah, why does it sound like a man just like Bell-kun……)

Yes, just like that.

She found what was most suitable. When she tried to say it out, she

finally understood.

If I could find a man just like Bell-kun, then it would be okay….ahhaha…, Eina finally got this conclusion in the end.

(……Huh)

Hey hey, she extended her hand towards this void space.

A person just like Bell, then——isn't it already determined.

In a place where they was nothing, she blushed, in a place where no one was there, she "ahahahahaha!?" laughed by herself.

"Ah, it's here, it's here!"

Even though she was the only one who shouted, the heat on her face had not subsided. She walked and entered a two-floor high item shop that was constructed with jagged stones. The name written on the sign of the shop was ＜LEE TAIL＞.

The reason for her to come here was in order to investigate the wine that the ＜Soma's Familia＞ sells.

Although there is a factor of only being able to select one of the remaining, but she was still suspicious of the unnatural act of selling little. Eina thought hard by herself and still could not reach a conclusion, so she wanted to come and investigate it herself.

(Compared to last time, it seems that the variety had increased?)

The clear crystal bottles that was harder than glass seems to be casually placed as it occupied the center of the shop. Eina turn her head around to look back and forth at the products high up.

There were many products placed onto the shelves. The blue liquid that was inside a flask that was round on the bottom was a recovery potion, the liquid in the slender tube was a antidote, and served inside the elegant bottle was the elixir……All of these were items from commercial-type ＜Familias＞.

As long as it was a product from ＜Familia＞, most of the item shops would basically sell it. This shop not only occupied the area near

＜Adventurer's Street＞, which achieved a high rating from Adventurers, but another important factor was that the variety of items were also complete.

After Eina roughly viewed the items that Adventurers use, she casually walked over towards the groceries area, which was indicated by the arrow mark inside the shop.

(WAAAA! They have it, they have it!)

Eina, who found the ＜Soma's Familia＞'s sign on the wine bottle shelves, suddenly became happy.

What was placed on the wine shelf was a glass bottle without any decorations. The stuff inside was also transparent. Even if you were to look at it positively, it absolutely did not look like something that would taste good.

And under the situation where other wine still had many remaining, ＜Soma's Familia＞'s item only had one bottle left. Looks like the demand being high was indeed true.

(……＜Soma＞?)

Looking at the white label that did not seem to have any motivation, Eina's jade-colored eyes blinked instantly.

The name of the wine was the same as the Main God……Could it be that Soma, himself, named it?

Eina shook her head slightly while she prepared to call a shop employee to take out the product from the display box. At this point, she suddenly noticed the price.

60000 Varisu.

Don! Eina's forehead hit the shelves.

(A….Ahhhhhhhh～～～～～～!? It is just only wine!?)

——Can't believe it! It was more expensive than the entire set of Bell's equipment!

Eina rubbed her forehead that was turning red while staring at <Soma>.

It was on par with the high-class Adventurer's specially used items or equipment.

It can also be said that it was even more expensive than that. Although it was by no means unattainable, but it is not something that a normal person can just "Hey, this one" and casually take it.

As a product for a hobby, the level difference was too big.

(T…The money I brought, there is no way I have that much…….)

Although the guild's wage was in no way inferior than Adventurers, but it has not reached the point where you would carry 60000 Varisu around. Moreover, if she bought a bottle, Eina's living fees would be cut down immensely. After all, she had even bought an armor as a present for Bell.

Standing in front of the wine shelf, Eina was suddenly caught in endless frustration.

"……Is it Eina?"

"Eh?"

A stern voice brushed through her ears. She heard someone call her name, Eina turned around.

Standing behind her was a tall elven beauty, even to a female.

The beautiful sparkling emerald-colored hair that seemed to extend all the way towards her waist was tied up into a bundle. The ears, which passed through the beautiful hair, seems to be pointed up like leaves. Even among the beautiful elves, this face can also be described as a divine and gem like beauty. It would not be wrong to say that she would be super popular.

She, who was wrapped by a never-ending awe-inspiring atmosphere, had a similar color eyes like Eina. No, it should be an even more clear jade-color.

This time, Eina was really surprised.

"R…Riveria-sama!?"

“As I expected, it was you……Long time no see, in the short period of time we have not met, you have become even more beautiful. I nearly did not recognize you”

Although it cannot yet be called a smile, but the corner of her mouth had gently bent. Towards Riveria Rios Alfr, Eina hurriedly became respectfully.

“I…I am deeply grateful! These words are too exaggerated, I deeply fear that…….!”

“……Do not use that tone. This is not our native home for elves. Speaking of which, you were not even born at our native home, there was no need to pay attention to that.”

“Although it is true, but my mother had taught me before that we should never forget and be reverence towards nobles…….”

“She actually taught something like this to Eina……That’s really sad, even though we were companions that left our native home together”

Fuuuu, she spat out what could be a charming sigh. Riveria cast a powerful sight towards Eina.

“Although it is necessary to master the ability to at least differentiate, but above that, it is unnecessary. I am annoyed of the cage-like atmosphere that comes from the bottom of my heart. If you wish to respect me, then please understand my feelings first.”

“H…How could it……”

Towards Riveria’s words that were mingled with coercion, Eina shuddered in fear.

Indeed, Eina was born in a city of freedom that opened the doors towards mixed races living together, and only had the knowledge about the native elf

home……However, the person in front of her was from the royal family.

Half of her blood that flowed inside her body made her bow down.

“That said, there is no need for you to completely change your attitude. There is no need to be that sensitive towards it, that is what I am saying.”

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“I…I understand……”

“Correct”

She nodded satisfactorily, but on the contrary, Eina still did not lay it down yet.

Her eyebrows was twisted in a strange direction.

While pushing the words “I’ve really got to hand it to you” deep inside her heart, she was changing her own consciousness, and once again, she was able to become happy.

When she was small, Eina had returned to her hometown repeatedly, but she did not see Riveria.

Although when Eina had entered the guild and due to her work, she quickly knew about the existence of Riveria. However, because of the work arrangements, it became difficult for them to meet up.

Although it was not impossible to meet, she had always been afraid and was hesitant.

“Being spirited is good enough. I did not expect you to work at the guild”

“Sorry, I originally wanted to contact you…….”

“Don’t worry. I had been diving into the dungeon every day after coming to this city. There was no time to care about other things. Delaying things until now”

Riveria elegantly nodded. Although Eina had also grew up through the influence of her mother’s good conduct, she still could not compare to her, who was born from the royal family. The dimensions were too far apart.

“Riveria-sama, why are you here?”

“Nothing much, I had used up my items in the exploration a few days ago. I am replenishing it.”

“Can’t Riveria-sama use Healing Magic……If I can ask this, isn’t it too silly”

“Ahah. After all, Magic is not almighty. If it is a situation where I could use items, I would not consider to use Magic. What about Eina?”

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“Ah”

She remembered her own goal when she was asked. Under Riveria’s urge “Tell me”, Eina hesitated a little and tried to not involve the information of investigating about the <Soma’s Familia> when she replied.

She made the judgment that it was to avoid unnecessary gossip about a member of the guild specially investigating a certain faction.

“Ho, this wine is it. A lot of people in my <Familia> enjoys it.”

“Eh……A…Ahh, Riveria-sama? Among the people who enjoys drinking this

wine, is there any particular symptoms that showed up a little, such as dependency issues or similar?”

“If you want me to say it, I think everybody who drinks wine is abnormal……but there is no one that acts beyond the ordinary. Why do you ask this kind of thing?”

“That……Yes, although a friend had recommended this wine, but I heard that <Soma’s Familia>’s wine seem to have somewhat negative rumors……”

A way of speaking that mixed a tiny bit of truth into it. Just asking about the contents of the past was indeed a good strategy. Perhaps asking Riveria, she may be able to get an unexpected reward.

“I see. Indeed, I heard that <Familia>’s members had some poor rumors”

“Riveria-sama, do you know anything?”

She was slightly looking forward to it, her voice even sounded slightly excited.

There was no success.

Towards Eina, Riveria closed one of her eyes and stared.

Nnnn, Eina was stumped. This was bad, she thought.

Riveria was very sharp. She could easily see through the secrets inside the inner heart and then following it to understand the real intentions of the other. When she was small, as long as she was in front of her, she could not hide any secrets.

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The fact that she was investigating <Soma's Familia> was probably already exposed.

While Eina was in cold sweat, she waited for Riveria's response.

"……Forget it. Unfortunately, what I know about that <Familia> is not a lot.

Perhaps the same as you, or even less than you."

"I…Is that so"

Did she let her go, Eina, who was not further inquired, rubbed her chest.

Riveria only just temporarily looked at her, then she began to talk.

"Although I am not clear……but I do know a person who understands clearly about that faction"

"……Eh?"

"Want to come along? To my <Familia>'s headquarters"

× × ×

A long lodging house.

If you had to use words to describe it, you would call it like this.

(Although I have heard of the rumors……As expected of one of Orario's top exploration ＜Familia＞'s headquarters……)

In the north most area of Orario, beside a street that was a little bit far away from the Main Street Area.

A long and large hall was built roughly on the land. The tall towers seem to be overlapping each other like a forest, and complementing each other. The top of each tower formed a flower frog.

Although the red copper colored hall's height was far less than Babel, but it was still to the extent where staring at it would be painful to your neck. The top of the highest central tower stained the sunset slightly green.

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It was as if it was a house built from pieces of fire.

This was the expression most appropriate for it.

"Riveria-san, welcome back"

"Excuse me, this is……a member of the guild?"

"This girl is my friend. I hope you can bend the rules a bit"

After explaining to the male and female guards, Eina and Riveria passed through the door of the hall.

Although the two of them standing together looked like sisters, but truthfully, their age difference was definitely more than doubled.

Among the demi-races, elves could be considered as a race with a long life.

"About this, it might be too late to say it……But is this really okay?"

"What happened?"

"Allowing me, who belong to the guild, to enter the headquarters…… If ＜Loki's Familia＞'s information that was blocked to others was stolen by me……"

"If you won't do it, then don't say it, Eina. If you have ulterior

motives, then I would not invite you in the first place. Or are you insulting me in a roundabout way?"

"N…No. That's not the case……"

She slightly recalled her childhood scene, while Eina was brought inside the hall into the reception room.

The room, that used an orange-yellow color, gave off a calm feeling and was facing the hallway. Several sets of seemingly expensive sofas and cross-placed round tables were configured around. Compared to using a high-class studio to describe it, this reception room seems more like a room where friends gathered.

Just by seeing this space, it feels like she was able to experience the atmosphere within ＜Loki's Familia＞.

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(Eh, not bad, I want to look around a bit more……Nnnnn?)

While Eina looked around the room, a scene entered her view. Looking at the back of the armchair. A group of golden colored things were lying alone onto the back of the chair.

No, it was a person's head. Long golden hair poured out from the armrest.

A person was sitting on the chair, she twisted her slender neck and slowly looked over to Eina's side.

Soon Eina gasped.

"Welcome back, Riveria"

"Ahah, I'm back. Aizu"

A beautiful girl that was younger than Eina.

Delicate facial features that was filled with gentleness and the eye-catching awe-inspiring body lines. Also, the beautiful golden eyes seemed to be crystal-clear, and could only be described as spotless.

Inside her body, there indeed coexists sublime battle spirit and adorable childishness.

Just as Eina had previously said to herself, she was a beauty that others could not help but sigh.

Aizu Wallenstein.

Bell's crush, a golden-haired, golden-eyed Adventurer.

"That person……Is who?"

"Ah……I…I am"

"A person that is just like my relative. The two of you also should do a simple greeting.

Being urged to self-introduce herself. Aizu looked directly at Eina and clearly said her name.

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Aizu, who was not wearing any equipment, seemed like a lady that was nurtured in the greenhouse. The pure white dress wrapped along her skinny body gave off a strong impression of her being delicate. Even her boobs, that could only be regarded as average, seemed to be slightly bigger.

The pure white bare foot, that was not bounded, seemed to be as smooth as snowflakes dripping down.

……I can't calm down.

Although she felt sorry to Aizu, but Eina still thought like this. Even though the two parties did not meet each other directly, the feeling of the dilemma of Bell and Aizu still came.

Despite her being somewhat stiff, Eina still sat down together with Riveria facing Aizu around the table.

"Aizu, did you replenish the items you consumed? 10 days later, there will be another expedition"

"Yes……I'll go tomorrow."

Aizu, who was sitting on the chair hugging her knees, quietly muttered. Her voice, that was like the shaking of wind chimes, echoed.

While facing the same thing a long time ago, Riveria, who seemed as if she was looking at her own child, was slightly surprised. Eina could not help but quietly ask about a thing that she was concerned about from the beginning.

“That, Riveria-sama”

“What is it?”

“Do you not think that Wallenstein-san is slightly depressed?”

From the body of the girl that had half her face buried under the white cloth fabric near her knees, you could feel that she was somewhat not spirited. Her long golden-hair also bowed down depressingly.

Even Eina, who had never met her before, was able to detect it to this extent. That was how depressed she was.

Towards Eina’s inquiry, Riveria revealed a rare laughter sound.

“What, it seems like a male that she was concerned about for a while now had escaped”

Isn’t it very interesting, Riveria continued to tremble, but this was not something that Eina could laugh at. “Huh……” The hand she was holding her forehead slightly began to hurt.

Looks like the spring for her cute little brother will temporarily be impossible.

Must hide it from Bell, Eina decided to seal the thing she heard today inside her heart.

“……Riveria-sama. It is almost time, about the matter that I mentioned

earlier……”

“Ahah, sorry. Let’s call her here”

Riveria, who was laughing lively, brought her hand into the bag she carried.

What she took out was, that <Soma>.

“About that, Riveria-sama? Aren’t you going to call someone……?”

“Leaving here to search will be very troublesome. Ultimately, there is a possibility that we will not be able to find her. Letting her come to us is the right choice”

Ignoring Eina’s puzzled face, Riveria took the cork of the wine that she purchased ——By submitting an application to <Loki’s Familia> it would be completely reimbursed, this was really impressive —— and pulled.

Soon, the sweet and unique smell, that did not seem like wine, overflowed through the entire reception room.

“Waaaa……What a refreshing smell”

“Fumu. Although I have long been accustomed to the smell, but still”

Eina, who was temporarily immersed in the fragrance, unconsciously took the glass that Riveria delivered. When she noticed that she let her, who was royalty, to pour for her, she almost fainted on the scene.

While huddling her body due to excessive fear, she slowly lifted the glass towards her mouth.

(Waaaaa…….)

The moment she touched the wine glass, Eina widened her eyes.

So good. It was too good.

As if her entire tongue was paralysis by a strong sweetness. It was smooth as if it melted the instant it entered her mouth.

The fragrance instantly entered her noise. The refreshing aftertaste, even the final and last aftertaste was still swirling in her consciousness. It was just like every cranny inside her body was infiltrated.

This should be able to attract customers repeatedly, Eina understood this just from one sip.

“This smell is……”

Then, shortly after Eina had drank Soma.

Dadadada, As if the smell of the wine had caught her, intense footstep sounds was approaching constantly.

“You, **IS IT SOMA**!?”

The next instant, with flowing red hair, the <Familia>’s Main Goddess, Loki appeared.

“She came”

“Letting her come, so that’s how it is……”

“Ahah! Really, it really is Soma! What, Riveria specially bought it!? UWAHH, you caring fellow!”

Eina first looked at the wine glass that was emitting the mellow fragrance, then understanding what Riveria had envisioned, she had beautifully lured out Loki.

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Even in the darkness, the red color hair and eyes still reflected a blood-red color.

Although her squinted eyes brought an amused feeling, but the flawless appearance, that seemed to be something that a sculptor spent his whole life to create, was undoubtedly something that belonged to the Gods. Her slender and upright face was currently sparkling happily like a dog waving its tail.

“Although I was the one that paid for it, but the one who wanted to buy it was not me”

“Then it is Aizu! Coming back depressed was just so everybody could have a surprise!? Ku~, Aizu-tan is really cute!”

“That’s not it”

Loki, who was excited and wanted to directly hug her, was intimidated by Aizu’s sword aura, which she sent out in her depressed state. It was a feeling that if you do anything strange, I’ll cut you.

Loki sweated “Ah, ara?” while taking a step back.

“A…Aizu, isn’t it a bit overdone for just rubbing, how do you see it?”

“If you want me to agree, then please use words that I can understand. Compared to that, the one that brought that specialty was this child”

Ah, so that’s how it was.

Just like this, Eina understood Riveria’s intentions.

The person who knew the insider information about ＜Soma’s Familia＞ was undoubtedly their Main God Loki. In other words, if you pay a tribute to the God, you would be able to receive an answer.

Although it was scary to directly hear from a God, but Eina still decided to continue.

“Nnnn? Who, this child?”

“First time meeting you, Goddess Loki. My name is Eina Tulles. For this sudden visit……”

“Ah, ah, whatever is fine. I feel that my head was slightly itchy. Stop speaking”

Loki, who was waving her hand wildly as if it was troublesome, seemed to have noticed something and continued to stare at Eina’s uniform.

Widening her right eye, she revealed a sinister smile.

“What is this, a person from the guild wanted to come in contact with my ＜Familia＞……Uranus, that old man, wanted to abandon his neutrality, is this it?”

“N…No!? I did……”

“This child is my guest, you’re not allowed to slander her.”

“Ah, is it. If it’s Riveria’s guest, then it’s fine. Sorry, Eina-chan. Please forgive me?”

“N…No problem. There is no need to be apologetic……”

After being stared by Riveria’s quiet eyes, Loki seems to shrug disappointingly, then she revealed a wry smile.

She sat on the sofa rudely.

“Okay, let’s skip the formalities, and quickly go into the main topic. Since you brought my favorite, what do you wish to ask about?”

“……Then, I will go straight to the point. If you know any information about <Soma’s Familia>, could you please tell us?”

“So you just wanted to ask about Soma? Haha, so that was it”

Holding a glass in one hand, while pouring wine into the glass with the other.

Fuahh, Loki spat out a intoxicated sigh, and looked at Eina with a slightly red face.

“I also do not have a very good relationship with Soma, that idiot. Although I don’t know if I can respond to Eina-chan’s expectation…… Anyways, it doesn’t matter, it is just a slip of mouth. What do you want to hear?”

“……The reason about the abnormality inside the <Soma’s Familia>, what do you know about it?”

“Nnnn, you went straight to the core issue……But, how should I put it”

Loki swirled the glass while looking at the rippling wine inside.

After some time, she drained the wine inside the glass.

“Okay, let’s talk about the dispute between me and Soma! Ah, Soma refers to the wine, Soma? Don’t think that it is that idiot God?”

“Ha, ha”

“Then……I love wine. Love it, love it, absolutely love it. I would switch shops numerous times in a day, and continued to taste a

variety of wine. Drinking till I'm drunk then I'll barf, then drinking again and barf again. Just like that, I passed through an infinitely repeating happy life, until one day……I had a chance encounter with this wine, Soma"

I don't understand. Riveria sighed and closed half her eyes to recall the past. Loki did not mind and continue.

"Should I call it as a fateful encounter? After I drank a mouthful, I was completely hooked onto it! I did not care about which <Familia> produced it. When I finally reacted, I was already collecting, collecting and collecting Soma nonstop within Orario……Then, while I was doing such thing, I had unconsciously overheard something interesting?"

"Something interesting……?"

"Do you believe it, Eina-chan? This wine, Soma, was actually a failure"

What……, Eina could not help but do the same action as Bell when he had heard the news from Lili.

Loki smiled even deeper.

"I was very curious. If the failure was already this tasty, then how is the <Finished Product>? Thus, I directly sneaked into the <Familia> that was producing Soma"

Eina froze. This time, even Riveria was stunned. Although it was not out of hostility, but a God casually entering another God's base was the same thing as saying that she was about to attack here.

There were also manners between Gods. Even from the perspective to prevent information leaks, there was no reason to easily allow other <Familia> people to invade their base.

"Although I screamed in front of their entrance "Soma! Marry me!", I was pitifully rejected……Then I was very angry and did not even say hello and really entered"

Her head starts to hurt, Eina staggered and propped her head.

But at the same time, she had doubts about the <Soma's Familia> who was not interested in the other factions' interference.

"I successfully entered. There was not even a child there. But is that really their base? Why is there no one there? From that moment, I felt that the atmosphere was a bit wrong……However, I did not care, I was so happy that I was broken and I immediately began to stir around the items"

"……"

"Please, Loki. Refrain from exposing your own ugliness"

"Hmphhh, Riveria is really evil. Nnnn, forget it. Although I searched, but I could not find the true wine, Soma. Just when I felt that I drank enough and wanted to head back……That idiot was apparently there.

Was it that she was recalling the scene at that time, Loki bowed down and revealed a fierce expression.

"Ah, how should I put it afterwards, that idiot did not even say "Welcome"? But it was the first time that we met? He did not even take a few glances and headed to the garden to work with a shovel. Only later did I hear that all the ingredients of the wine was planted by him. Ah, he did not even use anything as fertilizer, you know?"

In the gap between the conversation, Loki had continued to drink wine. Her flushed cheeks seems that she was a bit tipsy, her pitch was also raised up.

"Just that, that God called Soma……was a really annoying fellow"

"Eh?"

"No matter what topic was raised, he would only just "Ah" or "Nn" reply. Even though he was so actively taking care of his garden…… Isn't this another way of saying that I was not even not worth that dung-sprinkled land"

Was it that she was recalling the scene at that time, you could see that Loki's anger was constantly increasing.

Eina wiped her sweat.

“Even though he was an indecisive and timid male God, he actually treated me as an idiotic scarecrow and completely did not care about me……Ahhhhh, damn.

Once I think about it, it really makes me mad!”

“……”

“And, and, Eina-tan!”

“E…Eina-tan?”

“Forgiving that arrogant attitude, in order for me to get the true wine, Soma, I even bowed down in good faith! I even did up to that!? But guess what that idiot said after!?”

Truthfully, Loki did not feel the slightest hostility from Soma, so she thought that she might be able to succeed. There should be a way if it was just around one liter.

So she was too careless.”

Looking at the seemingly harmless God, only then, did he stopped the hands that were working. He looked with sincere eyes at Loki and said.

“No”

Only at that moment, did he poured out a strong will.

“Mmmahhhhh! That kind of line said by that garbage was the most irritating!”

“Loki, enough is enough. Be careful not to deviate and quickly enter the real topic”

Fufu, after breathing a few times like that, Loki sat down on the sofa in a calmed down expression again.

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“Sorry, sorry. After all the twists and turns, I finally tried to ask about the <Familia>’s situation from that person. If I ask, you could also reply normally, isn’t that right idiot? It did not feel like that fellow was managing a <Familia>. Or perhaps, from the very beginning, he

did not have any motivation to”

Eina’s slender eyebrows slightly twitched.

From the very beginning, he did not have any motivation……?

In the end, what kind of goal does he have. This thinking penetrated her.

“Eina-chan, it is best not to think too complicated? In other words, Soma only loves about his own interest. He is an idiot that only wants the utmost perfection.

He does not even have ambitions or any evil plots. He was only living simply for his motivation, a God that was simply motivated by his hobbies.”

“Although I say this, that fellow is also an existence like a person trying to become enlightened” said Loki, who mixed in a joke.

Among the numerous Gods, he was also one of the top in terms of weirdness.

Eina embraced this impression towards Soma.

“Then, the problem here mentioned was the ＜Wine (Soma)＞. That idiotic god, for his own interest……created a ＜Familia＞ just to make Wine (Soma). However, his ＜Familia＞’s income was not ideal. If that’s the case, the hobby that cost a lot of money will not be able to continue. That fellow, after racking his brains, thought up the idea of ＜Prizes＞. In order to make his Familia members to work harder as a catalyst.

“Could it be……”

“That is correct, it is the ＜God’s Wine (Soma)＞. The finished product.”

The wine drop that was sticking on her lips, Loki stretched out her tongue to lick it off.

“I think that Eina, who drank the failure product, should be able to understand. If it was the finished product then it won’t be just good. After you drink it, you will become ＜Drunk＞. Not the drunk as in being tipsy and falling down? But issued from inside your heart, simply being drunk for the ＜Wine＞. In other words, being 244

enchanted. As long as it's a human's heart, it would be easy for the heart to lead the body, right?"

Eina felt a chill hit her.

She remembered the high feeling when she drank the failure.

It was not malicious. Purely by the wine's flavor, it penetrated her consciousness and attracted her. Her heart was really floating up.

And above that, was it the feeling of being enchanted?

Underneath her uniform, she was quietly filled with goose bumps below.

Loki used "If I say it like this, it would be much easier to understand, right?" as a premise to conclude.

"The children there do not worship Soma, but <God's Wine (Soma)>"

What they have faith in is not the god, but the <God's Wine (Soma)>.

In other words, the reason why <Soma's Familia> did not have proportionally matched amount of members for Soma, was because of the God's Wine (Soma) that he created. It was stealing their minds.

Just by drinking a mouthful of the God's Wine that brings supreme happiness, the believers were deeply addicted to it.

"That is the true form of that idiotic God. Without letting a member with <Mystery> to help, using his own ingredients as the starting point and mixing it.

Then using a recipe to create <God's Wine (Soma)>. Even if we consider the idiots that are enjoys their hobbies, it was still extreme"

Eina noticed.

Within Loki's title of Soma as an idiot, it also includes feelings of fear.

"Since all of the God's <Power> cannot be used. He was similar to those children, no it should be that he was below them and yet he worked hard to that extent. It really is incredible? If you could use human hands to create God's Wine. It even makes people want to ask him what he was doing in Heaven"

“*Fumu.* You can almost see the whole picture. In other words, the God Soma used God’s Wine to lure in members……”

“Yes, that’s correct. Once the members taste the God’s Wine, they will do whatever they can to earn money. Since it is impossible to allocate the prize to every member. In that situation where they confirm the amount of gold, only the highest ranked person would be awarded the God’s Wine. Thus, the members inside the <Familia> began to compete. Ah, if they were able to earn a bit more than the budget, they will be able to receive a small cup?”

I can’t remember anymore. Towards Loki, who moaned, Eina could only leave it aside. At least she finally understood somewhat.

The numerous times she saw the <Soma’s Familia> having an abnormal obsession towards money. That was produced due to the hunger for God’s Wine.

“However, isn’t it an item that seems to be more dangerous the more you hear about it? Is it really okay to not care about it?”

“Nnnn ——, that way of saying is incorrect. Although it <Allows one to feel drunk>, but it is not something that will mess up your brains like drugs. It is only a feeling. Exciting you. Wanting to have one more sip. However, if they get drunk, they will also sober up. Just like normal wine.”

This was the difference between a drug, Loki said.

There were no forbidden symptoms. There was also no dependency syndrome.

In the end, the believers being enchanted was only a momentary thing, as long as you wait for a while, the effects will completely disappear.

Except that while you are in <Soma’s Familia>, the interval between drinking was too short. It became difficult to escape this ant-like hell.

“Ultimately, there are only short-term symptoms for dependence, is it like that?”

“Yes. After they stopped drinking God’s Wine, there are also many normal children that recovered, right?”

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To further add on, it was the resistance towards God’s Wine. High-ranked members of <Soma’s Familia> would not achieve this kind of <Drunk> and will be able maintain a calm state.

Speaking of which, Eina remembered. Among most of the Adventurers inside <Soma’s Familia> that are persistent towards money, there were a few people that reached Lv.2, who were relatively calm.

“To sum it up, beside his own interest, the idiotic god, who do not have any other hobbies, is being irresponsible for managing his <Familia>. God’s Wine (Soma)’s Magic, and the member’s thirst for the wine, all of this adding up, created this crazy <Familia>”

Originally, if the Main God of the <Familia> was responsibly managing it, it would not become like this.

By using the Main God’s authority to issue a statement, no matter what <Familia> it is, they will all calm down. If at that time, there were any children rebelling against the Gods, what may happen is the ending where they were deprived from <God’s Grace>.

Thinking about what lead to this situation, although it was harmless to humans, it really was Soma himself.

“Since I have already said this much. Then, Eina-chan, do you still have anything you want to hear?”

“No, this is enough. I am very grateful”

She had already understood the situation about <Soma’s Familia>.

Although the thirst that deviated from normal wine was terrifying, but it was still within permissible range.

Wine, on top of that was the people who were only interested in money. If they really had to compare it to the other Adventurers that enter the dungeon seeking money, it was not that different. What was scary was that, yes, the moment when they try to achieve their goal at all cost.

If it was just like how Loki had said, this risk will only happen to a small amount of believers. Thinking back about what Bell had said, the Supporter he hired was not indulged in the wine, so she should be completely normal.

At least, it will not develop up to the worst situation where Bell was exposed to dungeon. Thus, Eina settled down.

Towards her, who was racking her brains, Loki opened her thin eyes and stared.

“Eina-chan”

“Yes?”

“It is just like the donkeys who have a radish hanging in front of them, they will never be able to eat that radish, do you know?”

“Towards being suddenly asked a strange question, Eina froze for a moment.

Loki used her index finger on both hands, *Pipi*, and moved it up and down in turn.

Without waiting for a response, she continued to speak.

“The donkeys that ran out of strength will fall first, then the greedy donkeys will eat the other donkey’s radishs, and until they were kicked away, they will continue to snatch”

At first what emerged was confusion, followed up by understanding.

Eina understood what Loki was trying to say.

“Currently, that <Familia> completely gave off that type of feeling. After all, it is only an idiotic radish, no one will stop it”

Following that, Loki folded all her fingers, and only the little finger was still standing up.

“Then, it is not strange that there will be a donkey that will not be discouraged even when their companions kicked it away. As a substitute for a person not being able to do anything……It will work

hard to be adopted by other owners to feed it.

A donkey that was cunning and clever and is not easy to deal with.

The red eyes that reflected her own face was silently stiff.

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“When they notice it, their entire body may be completely stripped. This kind of situation may also happen.”

Loki seems to be glimpsing into the depths of Eina’s eyes and recovered her posture. She sat on the sofa and buried her waist into it.

She poured half of the remaining wine into Eina’s glass and urged her to drink.

“If? There were friends that were involved with that kind of people, it is better to remind them. What do you say? Even if it is unlikely to develop into a big situation, it is still possible to cause them to suffer”

The guild having to take care of Adventurers must be very troublesome. Loki changed to a cross-legged posture and intentionally made fun of it.

She was seen through. As expected from a God.

Eina took a deep breath and honestly nodded.

“Did you nod your head, it might be an unnecessary concern”

“……There’s no such thing. I’ll keep in mind”

She is a decent God.

She was more friendly than what she had heard. Or was it just because she was an acquaintance of a comrade inside her Familia.

Eina used her gaze to greet her, Loki gave off a hearty laugh.

“Then, since the wine is almost gone, let’s end it here”

“I’m sorry. I made you accompany me to the last moment”

“No problem. I also feel that it was fun to talk with the beautiful and

cute Eina-chan”

“Ahaha……”

Yes~, Loki, who stood up stretched her lazy waist, she turned towards the silent Aizu.

249

“Look, Aizu. How long do you want to be depressed”

“……”

“Right, why not update your ＜Status＞? You haven’t done it since you’ve come back right? Nnn?”

“……I understand”

“Fuhehe, it’s been a long time since I touched Aizu-tan’s soft skin……!”

“If you do anything strange, I’ll cut you”

Towards the meticulous sound “It can’t be” of Loki’s response. Loki leaned forward and wraped her arms around the shoulder of Aizu and walked out of the reception room. Before disappearing behind a wall, she waved towards Eina and sent out a wink.

“She really is an interesting Goddess”

“Although I can only agree with the fact that she is interesting, but she switches too quickly. We all deeply trust her.”

“Riveria-sama also?”

“Ahah, yes, me too.”

Looking at Riveria, who closed both her eyes and revealed a slight smile, Eina also smiled.

After a while, Eina stretched her hand and took the last glass filled with wine.

——Tomorrow, she’ll see Bell-kun.

While she thought about Loki's advice, she felt a bit depressed while sipping the God's Wine (Soma).

"**AIZU-TAN REACHED LV.6**

AHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH!!"

"PFFT!?"

250

"……Eina"

"UWAHHHHHHHH!? I'M SORRY!?"

251

リセット
再開

Chapter 5: Reset

The sun was setting and the moon came out. The evening ended and the sun once again exposed its face from the eastern skies.

If it was the usual, I would still be inside our headquarters at this time. However, I had arrived at the entrance of Babel today.

During the entire dungeon exploration process yesterday, the man that wanted to trap Lili was always lingering in my mind, and it made me get a little nervous. I was also conscious about how I made Lili feel unease.

Although in order to not let her worry, I did not tell her about the situation.

However, I, who had constantly confirmed the perimeter for safety, Lili had been secretly watching me with an uneasy and helpless expression.

"……"

I, who was afraid that Lili would be wrapped up by some concerns, hurried off to the meeting location early in the morning and slowly looked at the blue sky. My head was displaying scene yesterday as if it was to fill this time gap, .

When I had come back from the dungeon to the hidden room inside the church, I decided to talk with Kami-sama about Lili's situation.

After hearing the situation, could you at least let Lili hide in our headquarters until I could determine there is no danger, that was what I thought at that time.

"Bell-kun. That Supporter-kun, is she really a trustworthy character?"

"Eh……"

Kami-sama, who listened to me quietly, asked me slowly.

At first, I did not understand what I was being asked. When I

understood, I was prepared to say something, but facing Kami-sama's quiet eyes, I was not able to speak out the second sentence.

"According to you, that Supporter is very suspicious. Also the time when you lost my dagger……Ahah, I am not blaming you, so you do not have to be afraid…….it makes people think that that was the reason she worked together with you on that day.

A sudden encounter, it could be because of her <Familia>'s isolated and unintelligible situation, and the existence of Adventurers targeting her……Kami-sama reversed everything I had said, and revealed the truth under the gray surface.

Towards me, who was unable to refute and could only remain silent, Kami-sama lowered her eyebrows in guilt.

"Sorry, I said such a thing. But after all, I do not know that child, so I can only objectively evaluate. Perhaps your judgment is correct as you have directly met that child before……However, I am willing to play the bad guy."

Because I am worried about you, she said. Kami-sama seemed to wrap herself in divinity as she inquired like a child again.

"What the male Adventurer you said was suspected of……No, could it be that behind the scenes, she was secretly stealing?"

You should also understand, Kami-sama seems to have seen through my thoughts as declared.

……Perhaps these things will only be treated as unnecessary thoughts inside my head.

Lili, who had helped me in many occasions as a Supporter, and had even saved my life from the hands of the Monsters, did I become blind.

I, who had Kami-sama's gaze directly pierced through me, temporarily stopped my actions and recalled all the expressions that Lili had shown to me up to now. The small portion of true expressions of Lili that I had seen accidentally, all of it, I recalled once again.

"Kami-sama, I……"

“Bell-sama?”

“!”

My thinking was interrupted.

Due to the voice that was calling my name, my consciousness flew back from yesterday’s memory.

“Ah……L…Lili, good morning.

Gently expelling the floating memories away from my head, I made a belated answer.

Lili looked at me, and quickly revealed a smile underneath her bangs.

“Good morning, Bell-sama. I did not expect that Bell-sama would arrive at this time, Lili was almost skeptical of Lili’s eyes.”

“Ahaha, that is true. After all, Lili was always earlier than me”

For the time being, I felt at ease after seeing that nothing serious had happened to Lili.

Just as I expected, that male Adventurer will not make any moves to attack Lili above the ground.

It will be difficult to survive in this town if Adventurers caused an incident and was blacklisted by the guild. If it was as a punishment and their registration as an Adventurer was cancelled, they could no longer trade Magic Stones and Loot.

They will be rejected by the shop owners with no room for discussion. As a chain effect, they would also have to leave the <Familia>——
And also the possibility of being abandoned by the God-sama exists.

If they had gone overboard and violated the laws, in the worst case scenario, they will have to go to jail and suffer punishment.

Although the laws for Adventurers, who overlooked nothing, were just a piece of paper in front of them. However, even when the guild should act, yet they do not take action. It means that there was no sense of fear. It is easier to understand if you treat it as management of crime.

Yes, that is precisely why. If they cause trouble such as attacking others, by treating it as self-defense due to being mixed up with a monster, they can justify it as long as there was no third party present. That was the premise as long as it was in the dungeon.

“Bell-sama”

“Ah, sorry. What happened?”

“Today do you want to try to go down to the 10th floor?”

“Eh……”

Towards me, who was currently immersed in my own thoughts, Lili suddenly threw out an unexpected proposal.

I stared at Lili, who had her eyes blocked by her bangs and hood, in surprise.

“Why, suddenly proposing this kind of ……”

“Bell-sama, do you think that Lili will not notice? Bell-sama had already obtained the strength to break past the 10th floor right?”

“……”

I quickly understood the strength that Lili mentioned was referring to the <Status>.

Indeed, the current me with <Agility> in the lead, my other basic abilities had already broken into the A or B rank. According to the reference values that was provided by the guild for dungeon raiding, it had already passed the requirements for the lowest floor, 11th and 12th floor, that a Lv.1 Adventurer could raid.

Even though it was like this, the reason for this delay was that I was alone played a major part for it. The dungeon’s nature becomes even more sinister from the 10th floor and below.

Saying that the terrain was beginning to reveal its fangs was fine. Anyways, using the ability ranked at G to challenge the 7th floor and using abilities ranked at A to challenge the 12th floor, the difficulty was completely different.

Truthfully, I had already effortlessly increased the floor reached to the 9th floor.

Based on this tempo, even if we leave 11th floor aside, the 10th floor should still be fine. Lili probably judged it like this.

To be honest, I also felt that I was feeling great. Perhaps it was a little self-confidence, but I also believe that I was able to do it.

Having said that, the reason I did not easily enter the 10th floor was that.

It will appear inside the 10th floor.

What will not appear on the earlier floors, A <Large-Sized Class> Monster.

……Yes, just like the Minotaur.

"……But didn't I nearly die on the 7th floor? If I run down to the 10th floor like this……"

"Although that is correct, but because you have the experienced being careless, which led to your failure, the current Bell-sama will not be that arrogant? If I have to say it, Bell-sama, who have learned from this mistake, had improved his qualities as an Adventurer. This is what Lili thinks.

"……"

"And Bell-sama have also obtained <Magic>. That Magic is very amazing. There should be no dead angles for the current Bell-sama"

Yesterday I had let Lili see the situation of using <Fire Bolt>.

It was not really a show, but rather to improve my <Magic> —— Yesterday I had let Kami-sama update my <Status>——After thinking that I wanted to get used to it a bit more, that idea was becoming more intense, and was praised by Lili.

This property of <Speed Cast Magic>. It was very valuable for me who entered the dungeon alone.

“Even Lili, who had gone to the 11th floor before when following other

Adventurer-sama’s party, can guarantee it. Bell-sama can easily raid the 10th floor.

Absolutely”

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Before obtaining Magic, I had already been permitted by Eina—san to entered the 10th floor (Although I had to seriously pay attention). If I think about it like that, then just like Lili had said, perhaps I, who had obtained Magic, should really be able to raid the 10th floor.

Should I enter, or should we maintain at our current situation.

“……Truthfully, Lili had recently needed to acquire a large sum of money”

“…! Could it be that……”

“I can not say the specifics of the circumstances. Only that it was related to Lili”s <Familia>……”

Lili explained her own situation as if she was depriving me the margin to think.

Yesterday’s scene of Lili being surrounded by three Adventurers instantly reawakened.

My consciousness drifted away and my neck suddenly hurts.

“How about it, could you listen to Lili’s selfish request, Bell-sama?”

Lili bowed down and looked at me usually while turning her eyes.

……If it really is the <Familia>’s regulation, my interference…… towards Lili may push the necessary burdens towards myself……it may not be good for Lili.

To the members of the <Familia> that do not take responsibility and help, but was accepted by others, it may harm that <Familia>’s reputation. It could also be called as a shame.

I did not have the means to confirm Lili's situation. If I ask, Lili will also not tell the truth.

In the same situation, I would also be the same.

I tightly gripped my right hand and decided.

"I understand. Let's go to the 10th floor."

Just when I said that, Lili's face had a smile blooming upon it. "Thank you very much!". She nodded excitedly several times. I frowned as I revealed a wry smile.

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"Do we head out now? Or shall we head over to Babel to replenish our items just in case?"

"Lili had already prepared all the items yesterday. Compare to that, Bell-sama, do you wish to try using this?"

"……This is"

Lili took out a black short sword from her backpack that was placed on the ground.

If the blade of <Goddess's Dagger> was 20 centimeters long, this sword had 50

centimeters.

A Short Sword……No, was it a double-edged short sword?

The rod-shaped handle portion and the blade were constructed on an opposing configuration. The shape was a simple Short Sword.

"What is this, this thing?"

"Although I feel that it is rather rude to Bell-sama, but I had prepared this in advance. If you were to fight against Large-Sized Monsters, then Bell-sama's weapon range is too short. Even if that's not the case, Lili have considered that having a longer range would be better from a long time ago."

"You want to give this to me? Even though just taking this is a

bit……”

“After all, you took care of Lili’s selfishness, it can be said this is my gratitude.

Please accept it”

“……If that’s the case”

I pulled out the ＜Short Sword＞ from its sheath.

The silver-white blade edge was extremely slim. It was extremely light and could be even said to be an extension of a dagger. Although I had never used a Sword before, it felt that I could use it successfully……

“Is this really okay? After all, I have never used this type of weapon before……”

“Shouldn’t it be fine as long as you test it out before we reach the 10th floor? Isn’t it just right to try it on the Monsters up to the 7th floor. And if Lili’s eyes were not mistaken, Bell-sama and this Short Sword should be a good match.”

Lili’s eyesight was genuine as she had formed a party with numerous Adventurers.

So far, all my accusations were shot down.

I confidently accepted Lili’s argument.

“Ah……I am not equipped with a swordbelt……”

Just like this, I just remembered that I did not carry any equipment that could hang a sword.

If that’s the case, the sheath would be in the way……

“Bell-sama, Bell-sama”

“?”

“If Lili remembered correctly, can’t that hand armor store a weapon?”

Ah, I forgot about it. Even though I was the one that said it.

I temporarily took out ＜Goddess's Dagger＞ from the hand armor and after adjusting the device, I placed the ＜Short Sword＞ inside No problem. It was easy to get.

“Thankfully, Lili, you remembered. I completely forgotten about it”

“Ehehe. Lili also just thought about it right now”

Lili, who placed a hand onto her head, revealed a shy expression.

I, who revealed a slight smile towards Lili's expression, quickly recognized that I do not know where I should place the ＜Goddess's Dagger＞.

“……”

Abruptly, the words of Kami-sama resounded inside my head.

——That Supporter-kun, is she really a trustworthy person?”

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Right now by holding the ＜Goddess's Dagger＞, it seems to be recounting it, the voice of Kami-sama inside my memory, was inquiring me once again.

“……”

I seem to request for permission as I quietly closed my eyes.

The next moment when I opened my eyes, I placed the ＜Goddess's Dagger＞ inside the pouch on my thigh.

Towards the pouch that was holding different sized tubes, I placed the sheath and the dagger inside.

“……”

Lili was silently watching me and slightly bowed down her head.

“Then it's about time, shall we go?”

Lili raised her face towards my confirmation. She revealed a weak,

weak smile and nodded her head as she said “Okay”.

× × ×

“Please, Tulle. Although it was only an inspection, but you don’t have to go overboard and strictly manage it.”

“Yes, I understand”

Eina, who was watched by her superior as she left the guild headquarters, headed off to North-West Main Street.

Today, Eina was to go to the guild-managed Babel in the form of an business inspection. She had to ensure that there was nothing unpeaceful in the guild managed area of the skyscraper facility. She had to enter various rented <Familia>’s shops and inspect them.

Holding an armband that served as proof that she was an inspector and with a blue scarf outfit, she headed out a few minutes later than the other guild employees,

who went over first. In the morning period that was still considered very early, Eina walked towards the center of the town.

(In the end, I did not see Bell-kun……)

Eina had continued to think about the information inside her head that she had gotten from <Loki’s Familia> yesterday.

The final advice that Loki had mentioned to her was clenched tightly inside her chest. Eina, who was worried about Bell’s situation, started to feel restless.

A feeling of remorse surged through her. It was to the extent that she felt that she should have gone to see him yesterday, even if she had to forcibly find him.

(Although the sequence is backwards……However, I should still find Goddess Hestia and explain the situation first)

Today, during her inspection, she was going to go to <Hephaestus’s Familia>’s rented area. Eina decided her path while recalling the appearance of the Goddess that seems to be working there. Mixing of private and public affairs and misusing the position’s authority. Although these phrases passed through her mind, however, she threw

them away as no one would know about it.

“Ah”

“……?”

While walking for a short period of time from the Main Street into the Central Plaza.

On the contrary of the direction of North-West that she was walking out from, she met up with Aizu Wallenstein who approached nearby from the North Main Street direction.

“……G…Good morning, Wallenstein”

“……Good morning”

Towards Eina, who wavered before she greeted, Wallenstein listlessly hung her head. The golden-colored hair that seems to be mixed with a sandy gold color shook following her actions.

Although she did not how to react for a moment, but since she had only introduced herself yesterday. So she felt that something was wrong even today when she was in front of her. Eina talked to Aizu.

“Wallenstein, what are you planning to do today?”

“Going to buy items”

“Then, are you heading towards Babel?”

While she continued to talk with Aizu, who was nodding her head, it seems like she was going to enter the dungeon afterwards.

Although Eina was a bit suspicious that she did not go to the same shop as Riveria yesterday to buy the items, but after looking at Aizu, who was equipped with weapon and armor, she quickly understood.

Although it was hard to imagine from this beautiful appearance, but she also holds the name of the <Sword Princess>, and because she was always fighting, she was also crowned the title of <Valkyrie> by the Adventurers.

(……Looks like she still does not have any spirit)

Eina, who knew the depressed expression of Aizu yesterday, could observe this through the lack of dominance in her voice and her slightly lowered face.

Probably, she suffered a considerable blow by the incident of the male that she was concerned about fleeing from her.

While thinking that she really wanted to see what kind of guy would run away from this beautiful girl, Eina decided to help her lovely brother a bit.

“Wallenstein, I am very grateful about the incident a few days ago. Thankful for saving the Adventurer that I am responsible for”

“……?”

“Did you forget it. A few days ago, you defeated a runaway Minotaur on the 5th floor and you lent him a helping hand just in the nick of time”

“……Mino…taur”

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“Yes. The Adventurer’s name is Bell Cranel. He was really thankful to you……”

Bell, the instant she heard this name, Aizu’s head trembled terribly. Looking at such overwhelmed reaction, Eina, who planned to convey the intentions of the boy, suddenly became speechless.

The time passed temporarily in silence, and until they reached Babel, Aizu revealed a slightly bitter expression on her thin face and her lips were slowly moving.

“……Did I…scare him?”

“E…Eh……?”

Towards the somewhat puzzled voice, Eina could only let out a meaningless response.

“____?”

At that moment, a certain scene entered Eina's eyes.

Staring at a broadleaf tree in the corner, there were currently around 4 Adventurers hiding behind the tree roots.

On the armor of three of them, there was a cup-shaped crescent mark engraved onto it……It was the symbol of <Soma's Familia>.

Eina reflexively used her lip reading skills to read the lips of the group of people directly in front of her.

"——Just as planned——Get Rid of——" "Understood——On Arde's side……"

Although due to the distance, there was parts that were omitted. However, Eina's jade-colored eyes could still see through those words.

Although they did not directly mention Bell's name, but they indeed said out the name of the Supporter that the boy had hired.

Soon they will probably split and head towards Babel that was standing tall. They were probably going to enter the dungeon.

"……Did something happen?"

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Noticing Eina's abnormal behavior, Aizu raised her head and initiated a conversation.

Eina, who was revealing a perilous expression, looked at Aizu with hesitant eyes for a while. Then as if she was attempting to get rid of her bewilderment, she lowered her head towards her.

"Although I know that this is a rude request but please allow me to explain. Please help the Adventurer that I am responsible for, Bell Cranel"

"……"

"Perhaps I am overthinking it, but I'm afraid that he is already involved in some trouble. Although I know that this is a shameful behavior, but please lend me your strength"

"That was yesterday's……"

Aizu, who was listening in the reception room yesterday night, quickly understood what Eina was saying. Eina, who raised her face, nodded and carefully revealed the whole story, including what she had just seen earlier about the <Soma's Familia>'s team heading off.

Aizu, who finished listening to Eina's explanation, said "I understand" and nodded her head.

"May I trouble you with this?"

"Yes……I also still did not apologize"

Although she was confused about the last sentence, Eina still moved out of the way.

She originally planned on seeing Aizu leave, but at the first last moment, she remembered it. And she shouted towards the back of the golden-hair.

"About that, Wallenstein"

"……?"

"Bell-kun, he……Bell Cranel said that he was extremely grateful that you were able to help him!"

Towards the sentence that Eina had conveyed to her, Aizu slightly widened her eyes.

Then afterwards, the corner of her eyes dropped down and she revealed a small smile.

× × ×

The scenery and terrain of the 8th to 9th floor of the dungeon changes dramatically.

First, the number of rooms will increase and will also become wider. The path that connects each room becomes extremely narrow and has a ceiling not higher than 3-4 meters. Inside the room, the ceiling will also only approach 10 meters.

The wood-color walls will be covered with moss and the ground will

also become a grassy field with many short grass. From the strong phosphorescence coming down from above like the sunlight, it gives out the illusion of entering a wide grassy field.

The monsters that appeared are the combined monsters that have appeared before.

Although there are no new types of monsters, but as a replacement, the Goblins and Kobolds appear in a more powerful state. Although it is necessary to properly estimate the opponent's strength in order to fight like before, but the 8th and 9th floor was still a relatively easy floor to raid.

The best evidence is that we only used a few days' time to finally reach the staircase that connects to the next floor.

Then, it is the crucial 10th floor.

This floor……

"Mist……"

Although it was not thick, the white mist filled the dungeon and was enough to interfere with the vision.

The 10th floor dungeon structure was still the same and inherited the same form as the 8th and 9th floor. Only that the light source coming from the ceiling was not as bright, and the brightness could only remind people of morning mist.

It was the first time I've encountered vision obstruction since I entered the dungeon.

"Lili, don't go too far"

"……Okay"

I had warned Lili again using the words that I do not know how many times I repeated.

Of course, fear caused by the mist exists, but I was more wary of the sudden attack from the male Adventurer yesterday. Before coming to this floor, I had also continuous confirm Lili's safety, to the extent that

it was paranoia. Perhaps she was already completely annoyed.

(But then again……I have an unexpected affinity with this)

While I noticed Lili's breathe within the corner of my consciousness, I looked towards the ＜Short Sword＞ I held in my hand.

It was useful. Although I was slightly clumsy about grasping the sense of distance due to the effects of the dagger, but it was definitely more than enough to pass.

Even the Killer Ants was easily defeated with it.

Having the attack range become longer was really refreshing. It gave off an feeling of being able to continuously attack from a safety area.

Although it's power is not able to match ＜Goddess's Dagger＞ as expected, but I should not ask for too much.

"……!"

Walking out from the passage, the vision suddenly become open and clear.

A room where the grassy view extends endlessly. The mist also spread from the center of the room to the surrounding space, but it allowed the vision to clear up a bit.

"……"

Towards the group of tree that stands annoyingly inside the mist, I frowned.

Anyways, we should head to the center of the room to avoid the monsters that are

produced from the wall. Approaching a dead tree that was nearly two meters tall, the tree's outer skin unexpectedly still exists. From the trunk to the top, it gradually became thinner. It was obviously an abnormal structure.

——Ahah, as expected it was like this.

After browsing the trees, I had a bitter mood and turned to look in the direction of Lili.

“What should we do. Shall we first cut it down?”

“No need, we do not have that much leisure”

Lili, who was in front of me, sighed.

I felt a sense of nervousness behind me while walking and I turned to face the rear.

A huge shadow flickered across the fog. A huge footstep sound impacted my eardrums, and the constant trembles of the ground passed through my shoes and spread through my entire body.

I wore a face as if I was enduring while I was being pulled, and mercilessly clenched my teeth.

“*BUGUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUU……*”

Following the deep groan, a large-sized monster “Ogre” appeared.

Above the brown colored skin, was a pig’s head. The faded old hide covered the waist, as if it was like a ragged skirt. It’s height was probably over 3 meters tall. It was even taller than the Minotaur.

Compared to the ox monster that only had relatively tight muscle physique, the ogre was definitely much rounder. It was a stock body.

“As I expected, it is very big, isn’t it……”

“We can’t escape, Bell-sama?”

This was a path that could not be passed through if we escape. While being said that by Lili, I swallowed and nodded.

That was correct, if I could not defeat this ogre, then the large-size Monsters that will continue to appear in front of me……such as the Minotaur, I will never be able to defeat it in this lifetime.

After all, it was far larger than me, how is it possible to not be afraid.

I took a deep breath then I widened my eyes.

“*BUGIIIIIII, BUOOOOOOOOOOOOOO……*!”

Using its ferocious yellow eyes, the ogre looked straight towards me and Lili.

As if the pig-like Monster had found its prey, it roared as it headed towards the gaps between the trees and stretched out its hand.

Following this, the huge wrist pulled up——an entire tree.

Originally, the dead tree was part of the natural environment of the dungeon, but in that instant, it became a bones club.

＜The Dungeon's Arsenal＞

It was a tricky characteristic of the dungeon.

This is a dungeon with its own life, it will provide natural weapons to the wandering Monsters inside the dungeon.

In the 10th floor, it was the very first time that the terrain had the effects that could greatly enhance the abilities of the Monsters.

Even if it was possible to defeat the Monster in its unarmed stated, but after achieving the support of the dungeon, one or two of them may change.

"It was bad timing……"

Although ＜The Dungeon's Arsenal＞ could be destroyed, but it will automatically be repaired after a period of time since it was part of the dungeon. It is the same even if it was used by the Monsters. This dead tree will probably grow back again in the original spot quickly.

Normally, if there is free time, they should destroy ＜The Dungeon's Arsenal＞, even if it was only to prevent the monsters to grow a tiny bit stronger……but the timing was really bad.

Towards the ogre that was fully armed, I maintained a bit of the distance and confronted it.

"……"

The breathing interval of the disorganized Ogre was shortening.

Its ugly eyes sparkled as if it wanted to rush over right now.

It was my first time fighting against large-sized Monsters. A sudden sense of nervousness.

While I used my willpower to suppress my heart that seems to be exploding, I brought out some power from my shoulders.

Then, the Ogre issued out a large roar.

“*BUGOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO!!*”

That was the signal that indicated the start of the battle.

Hearing this, I rushed towards the Ogre.

(I can’t attack it!)

Just by the difference in the physique, I can’t defend against the Ogre’s attack.

If it hits, then I will be blown away on the spot. Even if I use the armor to defend it, it is futile.

(Conversely, if I snipe it from here……!)

First it is the lower body. Especially the two feet that were tightly pressed on the ground.

Although I said this, I still do not have any way to do it. No, to be honest, I had always been afraid of that size, a huge monster is still a huge monster, it is fated to be unfavorable.

Since its head is so big, it will have difficulties when rapidly turning around.

It is even more so for slow Monsters like the Ogre. Its excessive weight could easily cause it to lose balance.

One attack.

Just one attack.

As long as I can dodge the opponent's attack, then I will be leading.

The Ogre in my vision was gradually approaching.

"OOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO!"

I sprinted at full speed towards the Ogre that had mounted the club.

It swung down the abnormally large roots club from above.

If it swings it down, then it means……!

"!"

I fearlessly rush forward.

The attack of a weapon that was swung down was very narrow compared to the attack that was swung perpendicular. As long as you could see through the trajectory, then avoiding it was simple. Because it will only knock down onto the floor, there was no need to worry about continuous attacks.

Until it raises the club again, the opponent will be filled with gaps.

In one breath, I'll turn!

"*BUGUUUUUUUU!"*

"Success!"

"*GEBUOOOAAAAAAAA?* "

I dodged the club that was swung down with a large margin.

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I did not slow down my momentum and rushed towards the side of the Ogre and assaulted it. The moment I brushed passed it, I let out a slash along the side of its abdomen.

From the torn abdomen, green blood spattered and the Ogre let out a piercing scream.

The grassy area was filled by a layer of thick green lquid.

"Fu!!"

From the unprotected back, I followed my predetermined target and aimed at the right leg.

Sticking close to the ground as if it was sucking up the howls of the wind, I slashed upwards.

The blade of the Short Sword, that I was holding with two hands, cleaved off the grassy areas and following it, the silverfish-white blade pierced into the thick short legs of the Ogre.

"_____!?"

A loud yell impacted the eardrums.

The <Short Sword> that cut through the knees and slid inside was suddenly stopped. It was the feelings of the tough bones, following the pressure that the Ogre had placed all its weight on it. The blade was completely unable to move.

However, I only clenched my teeth tighter.

As if I was trying to lift the Ogre up, I used all my strength and let the <Short Sword> pierce through.

"You…Bastarddddddddddddddddddddd!!"

It was cut off.

Through the momentum, the Short Sword flew out from the right leg. Quickly, the Ogre, that lost one of its leg, fell down onto the grassy area.

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The collapsing scream became a tremor that affected the entire room. Although the Ogre was struggling in pain, I did not stop my actions.

Da, Da, just like this! I flew to the large back of the Ogre, then rushed towards the back of the head and thrust the tip of the <Short Sword> downwards and suddenly inserted it.

Following the dull sound, the blade pierced through the Ogre's head.

"Gi, Gooo……"

“Bell-sama, another one is coming!”

“!”

I raised my head from the Monster that was having a spasm and was going to die soon. Just like what Lili had said, I confirmed that there was another Ogre that walked in here from the opposite path of ours. Did it hear the sound of battle, while it was currently in an excited state, it walked through the mist. It still had not equipped itself with the surrounding natural weapons.

I stretched out my right hand on top of the Ogre’s body that had already stopped breathing.

It was impossible to miss.

Using my two eyes to aim at that massive target, I pulled the trigger of my magic.

“＜Fire Bolt＞!”

“FUGEEEAAAAAAAAAAA!?”

The lightning-like flame spear directly hit the chest of the Ogre.

Although the Ogre howled and recklessly stepped forward, but that was it.

Although the chest had become charred and was worn, it was not to the extent where it was defeated.

It really was because I had just learnt it right. Right now, I am still not able to use Magic to defeat the Ogre in one attack. The power of ＜Fire Bolt＞ was still too low.

But——

“——Fire Bolt!!”

Consecutive Attacks.

The consecutive release of the ＜Speed Cast Magic＞ headed towards the Ogre once again.

The Ogre, that was hit in the same spot again, had its chin flew up due to the massive explosions on its chest. It maintained a posture where it stared at the ceiling and stumbled backwards a few steps……and it stopped moving.

"……"

Wordlessly, the Ogre became grey ashes.

After being hit by two direct <Fire Bolts>, the chest had opened an air hole. The <Magic Stone> that was supposed to be inside had also completely disappeared.

I witnesses the end of what was the Ogre till the very end, then I violently breath and slowly lowered my arm.

(I won……)

I can do it.

Whether it was using sword, fighting methods or Magic.

Towards the large-sized Monster that was far more enormous than myself, just like the Minotaur.

I regained my calmness inside my heart and this time, it gradually began to burn.

A sense of accomplishment and presumably fulfillment.

Because the corner of my mouth could not help but get raised up by the fiery feelings, I tightly clenched my teeth.

"Lili, it was successful, oh……"

With a face filled with happiness, I turned around and there was only the white mist in my vision.

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The partner that I had always worked together with until just now……had

suddenly disappeared.

The feelings I had up to now instantly vanished.

“Lili!?”

A somewhat lamenting voice came out from my throat.

I turned my face left and right as if I was in disarray and glanced around the entire room. In the vision that was filled with mist, there was no trace of Lili.

Although the worst case appeared in my mind, but I quickly calmed down my mind and rejected it.

If she was to be attacked by that male Adventurer, Lili should have at least called out in resistance. The thought that it was due to the Monsters was more reliable.

I constantly searched inside the vast squared-shaped room with low visibility.

“……?”

I anxiously ran through the gaps of the dead trees, then suddenly a stench headed towards my nose.

I used my palm to cover my mouth and glanced at my surroundings. Effortlessly, I quickly found the source of the stench.

Near the roots of the trees, fresh meat was scattered on the ground.

“This is……bait to attract Monsters?”

While squatting down, I stared at the meat with fat that was specially processed.

I can’t be wrong. The item shop will indeed sell this. Among the many

Adventurers inside the Dungeon, it is a trap item to lure Monsters in order to increase the efficiency of hunting……

Why would it be here now……

“____“

A powerful tremor entered my ears. It is an Ogre.

Moreover, the footstep sounds was absolutely telling that it was not only one. It seems to be a clumsy melody that overlapped each other.

Then I noticed it. The stinky, shining meat was currently scattered all over the surrounding area.

After I stopped thinking for a moment, I was speechless to the numerous odor of those that were approaching.

"……Are you kidding?"

——There were four.

Towards the group of Ogre that approached together with a good relationship, I was stunned and whispered.

It took great pains to get even rid of one enemy, but now there was actually four. It can't be possible to defeat. I will quickly be surrounded and be taken out. Even if I wanted take on only one of them, with their giant body, they will be able to use natural weapons with a wide range. I will certainly be caught.

I have to escape. I must escape.

If it is only me, I will not be able to break through this situation.

But what about Lili?

What if she was hurt or for some other reasons and could not be able to move from this room?

Do I have to throw Lili away?

The group of Ogre that gathered here together due to the smell of the bloody meat had already noticed me and had created an uneasy atmosphere. The muscles in their thick arms expanded and the green veins were also prominent.

It had already approached to a distance where I had to fight, but even so, I still did not move.

Just at this moment, from outside my field of vision, I heard the sound of the sharp wind.

“When!”

Bachin! A sound seems to come from something that hit my left leg and the pouch that I carried threw through the air. The dagger was still inside that pouch.

The leggings of the pouch was suddenly shot by a metal arrow.

While I opened my eyes in surprise, the Ogres seem to use that as the start signal and rushed over.

“OOOO

At the same time I yelled out, the Ogre's attack passed near my body. I cannot be half-hearted.

Between that time, Lili briskly picked up the pouch that was flung over and took the ＜Goddess's Dagger＞ from inside.

After carefully examining it, she turned to my side and let out her usual smile.

"Sorry, Bell-sama. This is the end"

"Lili, what are you saying!?"

"……Lili feel that Bell-sama should learn how to suspect others more"

Towards my cries of dismay, Lili tilted her head cutely.

Her eyes peeked out through her bangs and hood, and the small lips depicted a smile.

That, too, was also a bit lonely.

"Please watch for the correct timing to escape"

As if she was leaving her final suggestion, Lili said towards the group of Ogres.

She took the backpack and placed it back on her shoulders again. Then she turned her back to me.

"Goodbye, Bell-sama. We probably will never meet again."

In the end, she turned her head over to this side and Lili disappeared in the depths of the sea of mist.

"Lili, Lili! ——Ah, Ah, forget it, this is really annoying!!"

"*BUGYOOO*!?"

× × ×

"You're too nice, Bell-sama"

Lili was currently running along a path while carrying a luggage that was unimaginable for ordinary people.

Her hands clutched onto the backpack strap on her two shoulders, and she un-hesitantly moved forward down the path of the dungeon.

Lili had said two lies to Bell.

One of them was that she was not a Supporter who was troubled with money problems.

Lili is a thief. Perhaps it would be more appropriate to describe her as a fraudster.

Using Adventurers, the highest income career, as her target, she was a thief that steals their high-priced equipment and expensive items.

For example, she had targeted Bell as her target because of the ＜Hephaestus's Familia＞'s dagger and had moved together with him up to today.

Acting as a poor Supporter was all in order for her to approach Bell.

Then, there is another——

"Nnnnn"

From the wind pressure, her hood was blown off from her head. The fluffy hair from her beastman ears was exposed.

Lili touched her ears gently with her small hand and quietly muttered a ＜Chant＞ silently.

"＜Echo is the Signal at Midnight＞"

As if it was filled with grey ashes, a grey light covered Lili's head.

Without a trace of sound, the light gradually dissolved and in the meantime, the ears on her head also disappeared.

Following it, the bangs that covered her eye and the tail on her waist, all of it completely disappeared.

“Seems like I should not completely transform my entire body. It is more efficient to just change a part.”

If Bell was here, he would be absolutely stunned.

Her huge, maroon color eyes and the pleasant and cute appearance. There was absolutely no trace of the beastman child any more.

This was Lili’s other lie. That is, that identity was a lie.

In order to avoid being pursued by Adventurers who was chasing the impression of the extremely strange Hobbit, she used the Transformation Magic ——＜Cinder Ella＞ that she had mastered, in order to disguise her appearance.

Lili had used this magic and had already deceived numerous Adventurers.

While the Adventurers victims were furiously pursuing the thief, that person had already become unrelated to Lili, and it was impossible to catch her. A rumor circulated among the Adventurers that there is a ＜Dishonest Hobbit that is a Habitual Offender＞. That was the result of Lili’s Magic.

She would sometimes become a Supporter. Sometimes she would become a

harmless citizen.

Not only did she transform into someone else, by using the Magic effect that surpasses the physical characteristics of races, Lili had continuous done bad things up till now.

(As expected, it was a failure to have let that Adventurer see the process of me using Magic……)

The man that was chasing her in the alley was also one of the Adventurers that Lili stole all his belongings. He just happens to witness the activation of ＜Cinder Ella＞ and seen through her true identity. This is the truth of the drama where she was being pursued in the alley.

Although it was not exposed at that time, but now, that Adventurer seems to have said some excessive words to Bell.

It had begun from yesterday after she saw Bell and that man having a secret conversation. That boy's attitude had changed considerably towards Lili. He would

frequently confirm her appearance and again and again, secretly peek over to her side. In short, it was like he was suspecting Lili and conducting an investigation, or perhaps he was alert about the hidden identity of hers.

She had made the judgment that it was time to stop, there was nothing wrong with it.

(……Just like this, It is already)

What a waste, she felt regretful for plundering from Bell for her own benefit.

It is all over but she still has feelings of being concerned about that boy.

As a thief, she could not completely understand the other her inside her heart.

Even though she already knew.

No matter how intense these contradictory thoughts were, after all, it was all in vain and was useless.

It is already impossible to continue the relationship with that boy.

She could not do things that may be potentially dangerous.

After all, knowing the truth, Bell will absolutely never forgive Lili.

"……"

Lili's face darkened. Then she soon sighed and shook her head back and forth.

What is it, it is already like that. She should just throw her guilt away. Being tangled up by Adventurers was really funny.

After all, Adventurers are all of the same stock.

Inside Bell's heart, he must have treated Lili as an idiot. Mocking her

as a person who could only simply wear a backpack, he would never stand on Lili's side.

Lili twisted wildly and frowned.

(A mere Adventurer, Just a mere Adventurer……!)

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Lili is a child born from a couple, who were a member of <Soma's Familia>. In other words, from the moment of her birth, it was her duty to join the <Soma's Familia>.

Thus, while Lili is still Lili, perhaps there was something that disagrees with her.

The world was not gentle to Lili.

Her hobbit parents did not care about the young Lili, and urged her again and again to earn money. They did not care about themselves and by the time they noticed, they were already dead. In order to pursue for money——<God's Wine(Soma)>, they entered a floor in the dungeon that they were unfit for, and was simply killed by the monsters.

In the <Soma's Familia> that were competing for the God's Wine (Soma), Lili was obviously isolated and became alone. The comrades inside her <Familia> always bullied the thin Lili. The painful experiences had continued every single day.

Then after she drank the God's Wine that was distributed to the faction, she had acquired that Magic.

There were no trustworthy companions. She had struggled alone and fought alone and finally found a path to earn a prominent amount of money. However, it was all in vain. Lili did not have the talent as an Adventurer. She could only change her career into a Supporter.

Then Lili began to steal.

While acting as a Supporter for an Adventurer team, they had continuous said.

Stealing Magic Stone. Secretly Pocketing Money. This is a Punishment. We will not give any Money to You.

Knowing that she did not do any of these things, Lili desperately tried to explain.

However, they only revealed a nasty smile and pushed her away. Even when Lili was about to be killed by Monsters, they did not bother to care about her.

Obviously, they did not heal her either. If she had lost her luggage, she would be kicked on the spot.

She could not expect much from the <Soma's Familia>'s members. After returning from the dungeon, they would only turn ugly and try to snatch their rewards.

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(Lili hates Adventurers. Yes, absolutely hate them!)

After earning the Magic from God's Wine, she had once escaped from the

<Familia> while she was crying rains of tears.

Discarding the title of a member of a <Familia> and becoming a normal person to find work, she was finally able to have a stable live, but it, too, was only a fleeting dream. It just happens that her companions in the <Soma's Familia> wanted to ruin the tiny happiness of Lili.

Where did you hear this place from, the cheeky and fierce Adventurers who found Lili stole her money. Her own residence was also completely destroyed. Even the old couple in the flower shop, who treated Lili gently before, pushed her away. As if she was dirt in their eyes, this memory of Lili was still fresh.

The <Soma's Familia> had cornered Lili to this extent.

Lili hated the Main God Soma. Why did you have to create this kind of <Familia>.

Soma had no ill intents. He did not mean any harm either. Ultimately, he was not even interested in Lili. There was no concern at all.

Soma did not do anything and will not do anything. What did the current state of his <Familia> become to, whether if he knows it or

not, nobody knows.

Perhaps it was wrong to hate him. From the great father (God)'s perspective, children will probably do things that others would feel pity for their stupidity.

However, Lili still could not conceal her hate towards her own Main God.

As a result, Lili had no other choice but to survive as a Supporter in the <Soma's Familia>. If she was to make a foolish choice——Even if she was to act obedient to her faction, and was not trapped in a cage——she would bother and trouble her surroundings. Even if she would be seen as a good income by a few <Familia> members and even if she was forced to work for nothing.

That's right, Adventurers are all of the same stock.

They had done terrible things to Lili who was weaker than them.

Even if it is that boy, he will, he must……

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(Even if it is Bell-sama……Even if it is Bell-sama!)

Even if it is that gentle boy, there will be one day where he betrays her. That was absolutely right.

Betraying him before he betrays her, what is wrong with that?

She recalled the final glare of the old couple, who treated her as a granddaughter.

That's right, she would eventually be discarded anyways. Being helplessly discarded.

Towards the throbbing pain in her chest that went contrary to her will, Lili could only give up and desperate fill it by running away.

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"Today, the guild is coming for an inspection. Do not cause any troubling things, newcomer"

“Okay”

After being nagged by the half-dwarf manager, Hestia returned to her own job.

Towards the shop employees, who do not treat and respect her as a Goddess, this, she had already figured out. She only moved her twintails back and forth while engaging in her work.

Hestia, who was primarily responsible for the reception of the guests, soon went out to meet the arrival of the inspector. She remembered seeing that half-elf girl from somewhere before.

“Ah, you are……”

“I am Eina Tulle from the guild. According to the schedule, I am here to inspect today.”

Towards Eina, who revealed a business attitude, Hestia led her inside the shop while thinking that it was certainly the right thing to do.

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After greeting and confirming the things with the shop manager, she was completely faithful to her duties and she picked up a parchment with one hand and a pen on the other while inspecting the shop.

“Goddess Hestia”

“Eh?”

“I wish to talk with you for a while. Are you free?”

After checking the weapon rack and the air conditioning Magic Stone unit, Eina, who walked over to Hestia’s side, did not look at her directly and slightly whispered. Hestia revealed a bit of surprise, then she looked around. Pretending that she was still leading the person, she brought Eina to the corner of the shop.

“I was shocked when you suddenly talked to me. You really do not know how to observe other people’s expressions, advisor-kun”

“I am extremely sorry”

While maintaining a line of sight that did not intersect, the two of

them continued to talk in a state as they pretended to work.

After confirming Eina's "is it okay?", Hestia moved the items on the shelves while she nodded.

"This is related to the Supporter that Bell Cranel hired"

Hestia's shoulder suddenly shook and she stopped the task at hand. She then turned around to face Eina.

"I will talk jointly about the <Soma's Familia> she is affiliated with as well, please be careful to not miss anything."

After listening to the matter that happened in the <Loki's Familia>, Hestia' face began to become more and more sinister as the topic progressed.

Although the possibility that the Supporter, Lili, that Bell hired would drink God's Wine (Soma) was extremely low, but she seemed to have a purpose——A plan that seems to plunder something from his body ——to approach him.

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Prior to the big event from happening, they should break off any contact with her, Eina expressed this opinion.

"Goddess Hestia, can you please help convince him to do so? I'm relying on you."

Eina, who was watching this side with her jade eyes.

Hestia only silently looked up.

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The room that she split away from Bell and the stairs that connected to the upper floors were not far apart. Lili effortlessly escaped the 10th floor, entered the 9th, 8th floor and continued to successfully move up.

Lili had already investigated the geographic terrain up to the 11th floor thoroughly.

The method that she used as a trap for Adventurers was basically the

same as what she had done to Bell. Creating a sudden, man-made situation and took advantage of the chaos to steal their belongings. Then swiftly running away (or when did they still did not notice).

By that time, waiting for them to chase after her was not the same child. Lili could use a flexible and perfect escape route, which was ensured by the floor maps from the guild and has been engraved into her head.

Even if she encounters Monsters, Lili can still use her specialty of shifting it to other Adventurers and continue to escape. Rather, she had always trained this type of technique.

After she had finished handling the stolen goods and turned back to Lili, the people that were chasing after her could not find her anymore.

Sinister, Offhanded, and also as a person who cannot do anything, this was the plan that Lili had thought up through her own efforts.

If you had to ask for the reason why Lili was trying to harm these Adventurers, it was all for vengeance and revenge.

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She had already decided to allow them to experience the pains she had felt, and take back everything that she had lost. Even inside the <Soma's Familia>, many people have fallen into her hands.

Lili firmly believed that this behavior is a legitimate right of hers.

Adventurers are like all other Adventurers. This was an unshakable view that she had up till now and will have towards the foreseeable future.

……Even if it was the face of the boy that was completely different than the others.

Even if she was to feel guilty, she would still turn her eyes away.

(But this way, the target amount of gold is only……)

She did not care about God's Wine. Instead, it was a taboo and she hated it. In her heart, she was even unconsciously afraid of it.

Although she had tasted the true flavor of it, but she was not willing to be controlled by the crazed, beast-like magic power of the wine again.

So she stole in order to accumulate money she stole in order to free herself.

One day, she would use that large amount of money as a bargaining chip to leave the <Familia>.

Strictly speaking, Lili is a item privately owned by Soma. Even if she was to request help from the non-charitable organization, Guild, she would still not be freed. Thus, she had to contribute a large sum of money to Soma in order for him to let her go. Then she will finally achieve freedom.

Using her own hands to liberate herself. This was what she decided.

“Nnnnnnnnn!”

Stepping onto the tall weeds, Lili suddenly stopped running.

In the room ahead of her, there was only one exit. A Floor 8 version of a Goblin was currently wandering around aimlessly.

There were no signs of other Adventurers. Because it had occupied the path in front, it was impossible to avoid.

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Heading back and selecting another route will waste a lot of time. There is probably around half-quarter of an hour left of time before Bell will free himself from the constantly emerging monsters. After including the sudden accident into her calculations, Lili decided to break through here.

“Please do not do any barbaric acts to Lili’s body, okay?”

While she said this, she rolled up the right-sleeves cuffs on the cream-colored coat.

What appeared to be attached to her arm was a small-sized hand crossbow.

(Using the Magic Sword for the Goblin is too much of a waste!)

She took a step forward with her right foot and positioned the crossbow.

In general, the Hobbit race had extremely good eyesight. The round maroon eyes became sharp and shot straight directly at the Goblin. The enemy also noticed this side.

“*Ba— kyun!*”

The metal arrow was shot from the hand crossbow at a frightening speed.

The high-speed arrow pierced through the air and directly entered the Goblin’s right eye.

“*Gigiyaaa

indeed succeeded.

Right now, she could mock the pitiful and weak self that she was before. Lili had grown up.

(The 7th Floor!)

Rushing towards the stairs that was buried in the walls, she had went up by another floor.

The dungeon's wall color was still light green color, Lili continued to maintain her speed as she ran forward.

(As long as I get pass this floor, then the rest will be easy)

Judging from the tendency of the monsters, she cannot take this 7th floor lightly.

If she was able to pass through here, then she could do whatever she pleases. Lili slightly relaxed the corner of her mouth and entered the room that was in her sight.

"This really makes one happy, isn't this the jackpot"

"Eh?"

Through the narrow path, a body flew into the room in the next moment.

Sticking his feet from the side, and causing it to stumble against the petite body of Lili's knees.

Lili lost her balance and flew grandly towards the ground.

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(W…What……?)

Although she attempted to lift herself up with her hand as a support, a tall and long shadow covered Lili.

Before she could raise her head and sigh, she was forcibly pulled up and her face was severely hit with a punch.

"Fugi!?"

“If you want to apologize, it is still possible, right? ……You god damn Hobbit!”

Her nosebleed was still constantly gushing out, another fist filled with power pounded her cheeks.

Her vision was wavering and she was unstably looking at her feet. The two shoulder strap backpack slowly slipped off her back and headed towards the floor.

Then as if it he wanted to add an additional blow, his toes pierced through her abdomen.

“——Ah!?”

As if she was like a ball, she bounced once, twice on the floor.

Until the momentum had finally subsided, Lili was overwhelmed by a whirlpool of pain and could not do anything.

“Ah, uwaa, nnnnn…….!?”

“Hahahahahaha! You deserve that, you thief!”

Through the constantly flickering vision, Lili was still able to clearly see the owner of that voice.

It was a human Adventurer. The male that contacted Bell yesterday. Lili’s original employer.

The male raised the corner of his mouth to the extent where it was ugly and smiled.

“I was just thinking that it was about time for you to abandon that brat? So we opened up a big net in order to definitely meet you again!”

290

“Ah, net……!?”

“In this incredibly large dungeon, if I was to wait for you in ambush, it will be a boring gamble. Thus, I gathered collaborators and assigned them to each key area”

The area of the dungeon was extremely large. Although the 5th floor already exceeded the area of the central square, but there were only 3 or 4 routes that can lead on to the next floor.

The male had gathered collaborators and assigned them to each path and waited in ambush for Lili to appear.

Unfortunately, among all of these, Lili still chose the route that he was responsible for guarding.

“When I saw the shorty cling towards the white-haired brat that I have an impression on, I was really shocked…….How is it, did that brat carry something shiny or glittering? You wouldn’t have made such a mistake, right?”

“……!”

“Well, I’ll just let that matter as it is. Before killing you, as compensation for stealing my sword, let me use it for a while……”

I’ll plunder everything you have, this was what the sadistic eyes were saying.

Stretching his hand towards Lili, who had a nosebleed that was constantly flowing out, he ripped the coat off and dug out the equipment inside. Lili, who had become only wearing cloth-made clothes, could not even do a decent resistance.

“Magic Stone, Gold Watch……He hey, you even brought a Magic Sword!?

Haaahahahahahaha! This is also stolen, right!”

The man was extremely pleasant about the existence of the expensive Magic Sword.

Looking at the beautiful shining dagger, his mood was extremely well.

The man single-handedly played with the red dagger. Then he clenched his teeth and no longer showed an evil smile.

291

“Kukuku……! Fine, I’ll forgive you shitty Hobbit. Since I got such a gift from you, I should also show some kindness……Right, ah?”

“Uggggh!?”

A second kick headed towards her abdomen, Lili almost fainted.

Bad, bad, bad. Her small chest has a sense of anxiety swelling outward.

If she does not think of a way to escape, what will meet her will only be a tragic end. She understood this from the never-ending violent atmosphere.

Before she sucked in a few breathes, she heard the distant sound of a man.

“Not bad, Boss Gedo”

A third person’s voice was sent here.

“……!?”

“Oh, it really is early”

Looking towards the direction of the sound, in the entrance of the room, there was a man that she seemed to remember.

He was a member of a group that wanted to seize the Lili’s wealth a few days ago.

Up till now, they had already plundered from her numerous times, and had bullied her many times. The Adventurers from ＜Soma’s Familia＞.

Lili finally understood. The collaborators the man had talked about were from the ＜Soma’s Familia＞. Probably, after contacting with Bell yesterday, they believed that they could use these people, who had a conflict with her, and went to assist them.

“Listen, Kanu. This fellow even brought a Magic Sword. Just as you guys expected, it seems like she is hiding a lot of money, Ku haha”

“……Is that so”

The man who was in a good mood and was talking —— Gedo, and the middle

aged beastman, who was known as Kanu, seemed to have narrowed his eyes. It seems that Gedo, who was in a good mood, did not notice

it.

292

“Boss Gedo. I have a proposal……”

“What, you want the Magic Sword? Hey hey, but I caught this Hobbit, if it’s this degree, then……”

“No, ah. Not only the Magic Sword, I want you to leave everything you have stolen right here”

Ha? Gedo, who was frozen with half a smile and was about to question. But Kanu threw the item that he was hiding behind his back over. *Boto,* towards the rolling piece of item in front of her eyes, Huh, Lili let out a scream.

“K…Killer Ant……!?”

In order to allow easier transportation, the lower half of the body was cut apart. It was a half-dead Killer Ant. Its body was filled with cracks. Purple monster blood was oozing everywhere from the monster. It seems to repeatedly close and open its mouth while waving back and forth with what seems to be the remnant of its claws.

“We originally intended to use all our members to attack together. After all, Boss Gedo, who had reached a further floor, is probably stronger. However, there is still this method”

Boto, boto. Just like this, he threw the remaining half of the Killer Ant.

It was unknown when the other two Adventurers, working together with Kanu, appeared from different entrance and imitated the same actions as him. Altogether, a total of three Ant pieces were thrown and the curse-like groan was constantly echoing inside the center of the room.

Lili … Gedo also…. instantly turned pale.

In their dying state, Killer Ants will release a special hormone. It was a special rescue signal that called for their companions.

Even if it was the pieces of Ants that were about to become a corpse, it is undoubtedly a timed bomb that would summon an army of insects.

“A…Are you for real, you guys,

ahhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhh!?”

293

Three sets of hormones were released outwards, how many insects would it call out.

Although Gedo’s screams were still echoing, but the expression of Kanu and the others did not change.

The obsessive dedication to money. The madness that imprisoned people caused by the <God’s Wine>. The pale Lili understood it correctly.

“You still want to waste time with us, do you wish to become food for these guys as well, Boss?”

“Huh!?”

From the entrance towards the back of Gedo, 5 Killer Ants stuck their head out at the same time.

This room had a total of four entrance. Three of them were blocked by Kanu and the others. The remaining one was also occupied by the Monsters. Due to the rage, fear and shock, Gedo, whose face was constantly changing, clenched his teeth, and threw everything he stole from Lili to the ground.

“Y…You bastards!?”

With a thin smile, Kanu opened up the path and Gedo passed through, escaping from the room.

Shortly after, the beast-like screams echoed. After fighting something noisily for a while, it suddenly disappeared. What had happened in the path that was filled with Killer Ants, the stunned Lili did not have any means to confirm it.

“*Gi*……!”

“!?”

Suddenly, one of the Killer Ants among the rest that started to flood

into the room, approached in front of Lili.

The heavily injured body could not move as expected. Following the monster's claws that were approaching, blood splashed everywhere.

The Killer Ant that was cut apart suddenly scattered.

294

"Are you alright, Arde?"

"Kanu…san?"

Lifting the sword that was wet with purple blood onto his shoulders, Kanu let out a sinister smile towards Lili.

"It came, but in order to save you? After all , we are <Familia>'s companions"

Towards the man that was speaking shameless in front of her, Lili bit her lips and clenched her fist.

The surrounding partners were currently resisting against the Killer Ants, causing the monsters to be outside of the defense encirclement.

"That's right, we've come, Arde? Specially for you, regardless of any dangers, we've come to this place?"

"……Yes"

"……What we want to say, do you understand?"

The somewhat acting voice bounded Lili to bow down her head.

Kanu's eyes that were staring at Lili's trembling shoulders did not, in fact, see her.

What he saw was money. Strictly speaking, what was in front of him was <God's Wine>.

From a glance, you may see Kanu's exceptionally calm face, but inside of it, there was a degree of fear that had reached to the stages of terrible.

"Hey, quickly now! Or it really is terrible!"

“I know! ……You, didn’t you say you have no money? It’s no use to make stories now, if you still want to hide the truth……”

“I understand! I already understand!?”

Towards the barely rational expression, Lili shook her head.

295

This is already not the time to have a grudge, while thinking about this, she handed out a small key jewelry towards the man.

“What is this?”

“Located at the east side of Orario, the key to the rental safe for the Gnome……”

“You mean a safe? How much money could be placed inside the tiny box……”

“What is inside are Gnome’s gems……”

“……I see”

The gems and minerals of Gnomes are all extremely expensive. There is a definite value and credibility to it. Lili turned the difficult to carry money into generally accepted gems and just incase, hid it into a rental safe.

Kanu, who revealed a thin smile, nodded and grabbed onto Lili’s skirt to carry her up. Then, she moved that light body in front of her eyes.

“K…Kanu-san……? Is there anything…….!”

“This looks a bit bad. Look at that side. It is already surrounded”

There were a group of almost over twenty Monsters that were gradually

surrounding Lili and them. Luckily, there was still one exit that was still not blocked.

Lili, who was hanging from his shoulders could only, *patapata,* move her slender legs, but she could only swim in the air.

“Go be bait for me”

“!?”

“Arde, if you were to divert the group of insects, then we will be able to go out from the passage. Once we get there, there will not be a lot. As long as we were willing to take some time, we would be able to dispel them.”

She used fearful eyes to stare at Kanu.

296

Suddenly, she turned to the surrounding men, they, too, had a despicable smile on their face.

“You are useless if you do not have money. At the very least, you should still support us, right Supporter?”

She was thrown.

She depicted a parabola in the air and flew past the heads of the Killer Ants.

The Monsters made a sensitive reaction to Lili, who was flying past them, and stared at her.

Time had already stopped for Lili as she watched her companions escape with a big smile. Soon, she hit the ground.

Although the impact caused her breathing to stop, but that was it.

“……Ha…hahaha”

While lying down onto the ground and staring at the dungeon’s ceiling, Lili issued out a broken laugh. The Killer Ants move their claws towards her and turned around.

Finally, this last old trick, Lili could not help but want to laugh.

As expected, Adventurers are not to be trusted.

If this is how you treat me, who had done the same acts, then it has gone too far.

This is what Lili thought.

(……Ahhh, but)

This, if it was the punishment for deceiving that youth, perhaps it may not feel as bad.

If it was retribution for that boy Adventurer that does not seem like the Adventurers Lili knew, she made be able to calmly accept it. If that's the case, perhaps it would be alright.

"*Giiahhh*……!"

297

Countless Killer Ants were crowding towards her like a wave.

At the location where she was thrown to, there was already no escape path for Lili.

She could only stare at the empty space between the wall.

In the form of side walls, Lili, who was lying down, was surrounded by Monsters.

"……I don't want to accept it"

The quiet mutter was also destroyed by the sound of the Killer Ant's footsteps.

A Professional Supporter. An object that they scorn.

Even if it ruins the Adventurers, but yet these people simply carry the luggage without any pain. They were completely useless in the battlefield.

The career of Lili, that could not do anything by herself. Simply, it was Lili herself.

The slow Lili.

Lili absolutely hated herself.

"God-sama, why……"

Who would call for Lili. Who would rely on Lili.

Not being used, but treated as if she was necessary.

She was disgusted by her weak self. She hated herself for being used by others.

Lili wanted to become someone other than Lili.

After learning Magic, perhaps this thought had materialized.

“Why did you make Lili, create Lili like this……?”

Up till now, she did not know how many times she wanted to die.

Wanting to go back to the side of the Gods, she could not recall how many times she had wished for everything to reset.

Lili was not praying for her current self, but the other, more reliable Lili.

298

The cowardly Lili still had not taken a step forward in the end.

Inside Lili’s heart, there was still a continuous longing for her own reset.

“*Gigi……!* ”

“……That’s right. It already does not matter”

The semicircular space created by the Monster slowly and slowly shrunk.

Boto, Lili, who had her cheeks stick tightly on the ground, revealed a smile filled with despair.

From her sideway’s vision, the Killer Ants were gradually become bigger.

The final moment has arrived.

“……Really lonely”

Lili was shocked towards the lightly blurt out words she said.

The final and last true thoughts came out from her chest.

So this was it, she was actually extremely lonely.

She was already accustomed to not being needed by anyone.

Although she was accustomed to it, the feeling of loneliness was not completely eliminated.

So lonely.

Towards not relying on others and being relied upon, she felt loneliness.

Although she was accustomed to being alone, she felt loneliness.

“So this is it, Lili……”

Wanted to live with someone else.

Lili was happy that she was finally able to recognize the feelings inside her chest.

299

“*SHIAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA*”

The Killer Ants swung their claws. Bathed by the light descending from the ceiling of the dungeon, it was brightly gleaming.

It was over.

She could finally die. She could finally finish everything. She was finally able to return to Heaven.

Finally and finally, she would be able to reset it.

She will not be able to do anything and not be able to be herself. She would finally end her weak self.

Her thin and weak self that was not able to help, the invaluable her and the lonely her.

She would finally be able to reset it.

(Ahhh, Lili finally is……)

…….Finally, she will be able to find someone who is willing to live with her.

(Finally……Am I dying?)

Lili cried as she exposed her tears.

Following,

“Fire Boltttttt

very slow in this regard, although she still hasn't seem to notice it, and was just smiling cutely like an idiot……Even if she was showing an indifferent expression."

Bell told her everything he had seen, over and over again recounted the things that Hestia had not seen.

Above that, he even revealed his own thoughts.

"Didn't Kami-sama help the lonely me?"

Before encountering Hestia, he was wandering around Orario alone and was almost destroyed by the anxiety and loneliness. The loneliness at that time was seen by her as well.

"It is not a problem if it is a mistake, but if it isn't a mistake……this time, I wish to help that child."

Just like Kami-sama, who saved him. Bell ended the conversation like this.

301

"……That child, Bell-kun, he is the type that would give the gentleness that he received to other children. Because he had also experienced that pain, so he would be able to notice it."

Hestia, who was staring at the ground, raised her head to stare at Eina again.

"Don't look at him like that, but Bell-kun is actually very stubborn? He would not be shaken, that child."

Towards Hestia, who informed her with huddled shoulders, Eina revealed a puzzled expression in a panic. From the corner of her mouth, she seemed to have something she wanted to say.

"Do you refuse to accept it?"

"No, if it's Bell-kun's words……If it was him, he might have really said this. But what is the basis for it……"

Towards Eina, who revealed her uneasiness, Hestia slowly folded her arms.

As if she was extremely regrettable for saying the words she was going to say, she pouted and said.

“And, Bell’s insight on the opposite sex is genuine. Just like a God, that must be true.”

× × ×

“Liliiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiii!!”

The voice that called for Lili torn through the group of Killer Ants.

A roar that was composed of explosions inside of explosions. Towards the sudden sneak attack that came from the rear, the Killer Ants attempted to turn around, but they could not move due to them being crowded together.

Continuous burst of flames seemed to drill through the group of insects, the moment when Lili’s eyes widened and clearly see the lightning flames……A white-haired boy cut through the monsters’ wall and flew through it.

302

“GET AWAY FROM MEEEEEEEEEEE!”

“*GIGAAAA!?”*

The boy wielding the dagger and short sword, Bell, roughly dispersed the group of giant ants.

He maintained a fixed wrist posture at Lili’s side to keep the Killer Ants in place.

If they move, he would cut off their heads.

“Lili! Are you okay!? Do you recognize me!?”

The person who held her own body, Lili did not react initially.

The crimson eyes were quivering anxiously. The fingers clasped onto her shoulders were tightly grasped to the extent where it is painful.

He hurriedly pulled out a recovery potion and lifted it near her mouth.

Lili, who was being stared at as if he would never let his eyes go away from her, slowly opened her mouth and drank the blue liquid.

Quickly, *cough, cough,* her cute cough sounds echoed.

"……Bell-sama?"

"Yes. Are you alright?"

Bell, who was just like Lili who had her face filled with tears, smiled and raised his tone.

Right now, what was frozen inside Lili's chest seemed to be held tightly that it hurts and became very hot.

After Bell confirmed the safety of Lili, he soon raised his face.

Facing the sharp eyes of the group of Killer Ants.

Lili unconsciously moved her petite hands and handed out the pitched-black dagger that was hidden inside her bosom towards Bell.

His expression did not change and he accepted the <Hestia's Dagger>

303

"Just wait there like always?"

He said this at the end and Bell stood up.

Angry roars echoed throughout the room. The scattered smoke from the flickering flames were the remains of the fire from Bell.

There was no situation that was more isolated than this.

The number of monsters that surrounded Bell was around 30. And through the entrance, more and more were constantly coming.

Towards the clumsy action of the group of Monsters that want to rush over, Bell was not afraid.

A few days ago, Bell will still be afraid of this amount of enemies. No, even if he was to face them head on, there was no guarantee for him to win.

However, right now, Bell has <Magic>.

“Let’s go……!”

He took out an citrus-orange color liquid tube from his pouch around his leg.

Knowing the existence of Magic being restricted by the Mental Power, Bell decided to use his trump card that he purchased with the resolve of death at the price of 8700 Varisu.

＜Magic Recovery Potion＞. A potion that recovers Mental Power.

Bell unplugged the embolus and drank it in one go.

“……
SHIAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA!! ”

“!”

The moment one of the Killer Ants rushed forward, Bell also positioned his right wrist in front.

“Fire Bolt————!!”

The instant the light burst from the lightning, the Killer Ants was also blown away.

304

Towards the Killer Ants that moved together, Bell continuously roared.

Rapid-fire of lightning flames.

Each time Bell called out, the raging flames would gush out and illuminate the dungeon.

The scarlet lightning indeed sent one Killer Ant to the grave, and occasionally, it would puncture two of them.

Due to the aftermath of the explosive cyclones, the Killer Ants were unable to approach Bell.

The difference of overwhelming numbers were covered by using Magic from the Grace.

“Ahhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhh!”

Towards the group of Killer Ants that were decimated, Bell wielded his weapons.

His two hands respectively held the <Hestia’s Dagger> and the <Dagger>. He headed towards the enemy forces that were covered with wounds.

Each time the dagger reflected a brilliant flash of purplish-blue, the Killer Ant’s head and body will flew into the air.

“……”

Lili could only stare at the scene in a daze.

The white figure swiftly tore through the monsters and shortly, the decapitated body’s fluids splashed everywhere.

Swift, Sharp, Strong.

When she noticed it, the large group of Killer Ants were already silenced. What was standing in the room was the boy.

Bell placed the two daggers back into their sheaths, turned around with a worried expression and jogged towards Lili.

“……How did you find this place”

305

“It is not that, there were a lot of Monsters gathered, probably by other Adventurers. The mist was too thick so I could not see carefully, but the amount of monsters really decreased……”

That’s why he could quickly catch up to Lili, this exposed the truth of being able to catch up to her that was originally impossible.

Towards Bell, who placed his hand on top of his head as if nothing had happened, Lili felt that something inside her body was broken apart.

“……y”

“Eh? What is it, Lili?”

“Why?”

When she noticed it, Lili’s mouth had already arbitrarily moved.

Even though she had something she wanted to say to him, but what she said was something completely different.

“Why did you save Lili? Why didn’t Bell-sama abandon Lili?”

“……Ehhh?”

“You can’t possibly haven’t discovered that you were lied upon, right? In order to steal the dagger, Lili surprised Bell-sama. You can’t possibly still be thinking about such foolish things, right?”

Towards the stupid face made by Bell, Lili’s voice gradually became more violent.

Feelings that she could not suppress gushed out from her mouth.

“WHAT ON EARTH IS BELL-SAMA? IS YOUR NERVES TOO BIG FOR

YOU!? IS THAT HEAD ON YOURS JUST AN INCOMPARABLY IDIOTIC

PUMPKIN!?

“Idiotic…..!? Huh, Lili, calm down……!?”

“IMPOSSIBLE!! BELL-SAMA MUST NOT HAVE NOTICED ANYTHING

YET!? WHEN EXCHANGING FOR MONEY, I DID SOMETHING BEHIND

THE SCENES! BELL-SAMA AND LILI DID NOT SPLIT THE MONEY IN

HALF, BUT RATHER 4 TO 6! WHEN I GOT CARRIED AWAY LATER ON,

IT WAS EVEN 3 TO 7 A FEW TIMES! EVEN WHEN I REQUESTED YOU TO

USE AN ITEM, I HAD LIED ABOUT THE PRICE BEING SEVERAL TIMES

HIGHER! IN TOTAL 12 TIMES! WHEN SEEING THAT THERE WAS

NOTHING VALUABLE TO STEAL IN THE EQUIPMENTS OR ITEMS, I WAS

VERY DISAPPOINTED!!”

The truth that was exposed continuously caused Bell to tightly close his lips.

Lili’s voice did not stop. Although her brain desperately told her to <Quickly Shut Up>, but her confession did not stop.

“DO YOU UNDERSTAND NOW!? LILI IS BAD! LILI IS A THIEF! SHE IS

THE WORST HOBBIT THAT DESTROYS THE PRIDE OF SUPPORTERS

AND HAD LIED TO BELL-SAMA!”

“T…That……”

“Even if it is like that……Even if it is like that, Bell-sama will still save Lili?”

“Nnn, yes”

“WHY!?”

Lili watched Bell with bated breath.

What Lili was expecting from the next sentence from the boy, she did not know.

Only that her heart was throbbing like an idiot.

Bell, who seemed to be oppressed by Lili’s menacing expression, slightly panicked.

Just like a reflex, he uttered that sentence.

“B…Because you’re a girl?”

——Kaa, her entire body begins to become heated.

When her eyebrow was lifted to the angle where she was angry.

Although she did not know the reason, her body was boiling up.

Although she did not know the reason, the feelings that she could not explain using words continued to gather.

The unknown meaning of discontent exploded outwards.

“IDIOT! BELL-SAMA, YOU IDIOT!! YOU ACTUALLY SAID THESE

WORDS AGAIN, ISN’T IT THE SAME AS THAT TIME!? SO AS LONG AS

THE OTHER SIDE IS A FEMALE, BELL-SAMA WILL HELP THEM OUT!? I

CAN’T BELIEVE IT, YOU’RE THE WORST!! BELL-SAMA, YOU LADY—

KILLER, WOMANIZING SCUM, PERVERTED MALE, PUBLIC ENEMY TO

FEMALES!!”

She did not know why she had the impulse of wanting to burst into tears while she was screaming.

Even though she shouldn’t have the stance to say such words, she still wanted to pour out her dissatisfaction towards the boy in front of her.

Dissatisfied. It feels that she was somewhat dissatisfied.

He had already came to save her, what else is there to be dissatisfied about.

In the end, what did the scream inside her chest wanted to tell him.

She already did not understand.

Bell only accepted this storm of condemnation in fear. Shortly after, Lili began to gradually calm down.

From below his eyebrows, a smile emerged. He placed his hands on top of Lili’s head, where the animal ears had already disappeared.

“Then, it was because it was Lili”

“_____“

Her maroon eyes widened to its very limits.

“Because it was Lili, I would lend out a helping hand. Because it was Lili, I did not want to you disappear”

“Fu, eh……”

308

“I can’t find a more suitable reason. To save Lili, and still be saying that there needs to be a reason……”

Her tear glands began to burst out tears.

Large tears began to overflow from her watery eyes one by one.

Lili could not endure it anymore and let out a large crying sound

“Uuuuu, UUUUUUUUUUUUUUuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuu……!”

“Lili, if there is anything bothering you, then tell it to me. Because I am an idiot, if you don’t tell me, I won’t understand”

“HIIIII……! Uuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuu……!?”

“I will definitely help you”

She tightly held the boy’s abdomen.

Although the iron-colored armor hindered the hug, but it was still okay. The hand that went around the back continued to hold tightly.

The palm that was placed on the back of her head and back, allowed Lili to continue to sob.

I know. I noticed.

Bell was thinking about her when he rushed over.

The light equipment had many holes and was broken everywhere.

The pale-colored skin had many bruises.

He must have forcibly defeated the monsters, crossing through many

obstacles to desperately approach this place. This matter, she already knew.

She wanted to call out. Wanted to talk. Wanted to confirm.

Lili wanted to accept the Lili that she hated.

“Sorry, Sorry……Very…Sorry……”

309

“……Yes”

No matter when, no matter where, her tears did not stop.

In the corner of the dungeon that had an unpleasant scene of large giant ants corpses, a place filled with many broken Magic Stone pieces, then one by one, a part of the Monsters turned into ashes and drifted into the air by the remaining flames.

The ashes slowly danced as it fell on top of the crying girl’s head.

The human that was tightly holding the small Hobbit, although he had a wry smile, but his face always had a blooming smile.

× × ×

The clear blue skies.

The cloudless sunny day, just like the day where he was suddenly talked to by a certain person,

While allowing his white hair to be bathed by the sun’s rays, Bell walked towards Babel.

It had been two days after that.

After separating from Lili, there had been no contact.

Up till now, even the room that she was living at was completely emptied, there was no news of her. Even if he headed to <Soma’s Familia>, there will be no reward. Lili had disappeared in front of Bell.

He felt worried and anxious.

Aimlessly walking back and forth to look for her, he did not know how many times this thought had appeared.

However, at the same time, Bell would think of this without any reason.

They will meet again soon, this thought.

310

It was a thought that had no reasoning behind of it, but if it was like that, he would be able to find traces of his Supporter one day.

Just like when he was found.

“!”

Bell stopped. Then quickly moved again.

Facing towards the western Babel door, a tiny figure was standing there with a cream-colored coat.

Her hands was holding onto the strap of the backpack that she was carrying, and she bowed down her head.

Her bangs were swept to one side, and her round cute eyes were currently exposed to the sunlight.

Restraining from walking at a faster pace, he walked towards the girl. Being careful not to frighten her and being careful not to irritate her.

Shortly, the Hobbit also noticed the existence of this side.

Her shoulders were quivering and her petite body was constantly trembling.

“……”

“……”

They had reached a position where both sides could touch if they stretched out their hands.

Lili raised her head and tried to speak numerous times, but she quickly bowed down again.

As if she did not know how to be the first to speak. It was unlike her.

Although Bell was already prepared to receive Lili's gunfire-like chattering offensive, he soon revealed a wry smile and began to speak from his side.

"Supporter-san, Supporter-san. Are you looking for an Adventurer?"

"Eh?"

Lili raised her head.

Bell smiled towards the seemingly surprised maroon eyes.

"Are you still confused? But the current situation is very simple? The

unexperienced Adventurer wants to borrow a Supporter to lend a helping hand, and came to advertise himself"

Lili also seems to have noticed.

Her cheeks flushed and her moist eyes began to overflow with joy.

Bell seems to be trying to be polite, but in reality, he was very embarrassed. He stretched out his right hand.

"Do you want to come with me to the dungeon?"

Starting today, it begins again.

Bell and Lili will really join forces, and belong to a tiny team that consist of two people.

A reset of the two people's relationship.

It will once again start.

"——Okay, please bring Lili!"

A sunflower-like smile emerged on her face, and Lili stacked her own hand on top of the outstretched hand.

エピローグ
舞台裏

Epilogue: Behind the Scenes

“Gone”

Aizu muttered to herself.

The current location was the 10th floor. Only Aizu was in this place that was filled with mist. There was no one else. Nearby, there were corpses of Monsters that was killed by her and were still struggling on the ground.

Although she confirmed that there was a figure of a boy by himself in the depths of the mist, but he seemed to have easily broke past the surrounding net of Monsters forcibly in an instant, as if he was hurrying to escape this place.

Due to Eina’s request, she had collected bits and pieces of information about the ＜White-haired Adventurer＞ from the Adventurers that were exploring the dungeon.

Then she had finally reached the boy’s —— Bell’s location……But once again, she was caught up in a dilemma of brushing past each other. Aizu slightly lowered her shoulders.

(But……)

Perhaps she might be able to help him, Aizu thought apathetically.

Although it was difficult to determine in the mist, but the actions of Bell revealed a bit of anxiety when he was desperately fighting against monsters. Then through the stream of Monsters, Aizu predicted that after obtaining freedom, he ran off as if nothing was chasing after him.

That boy had something that he had to do in a hurry, Aizu thought about this without any basis.

(Then, what should I do……)

Also, there was the thing that Eina requested. As expected, it would be

better to confirm the safety of Bell through the trail.

It will take a lot of work to chase from here……Just when Aizu was slightly puzzled in her thinking, suddenly.

There seems to be something that was shining in the depths of this sea of mist.

"……This is"

She picked up the light source that seems to have been dropped in the grassy area.

It was a jade-like colored hand armor.

It was a defensive armor that was slightly similar in color to Riveria's and Eina's eyes. Through the continuous stream-like attacks from Monsters, it seems to have been worn out on the surface.

Why is it in this place, Aizu tilted her head, "Ah".

She found it, a clue.

"Could it be……?"

——From behind her,

The white rabbit that was lost in the 10th floor swiftly jump inside the grassy area.

【リリルカ・アーデ】
所属：【ソーマ・ファミリア】
種族：ホビット
職業：サポーター
到達階層：11 階層
武器：短刀　弓矢　所持金：300ヴァリス
≪サポーター・グローブ≫
・モンスターの死骸処理を目的としたサポーターの装備品。使い捨て。
・強力な胃酸等から皮膚を防ぐ。異常効果にも耐性あり。
・彩色バリエーション豊富。リリのお気に入りはブラウンカラー。

[Liliruka Arde]

Affiliation: [Soma's Familia]

Race : Hobbit

Class : Supporter

Achieved Floor : 11th Floor

Weapon : Dagger, Bow&Arrow

Money : 300 Varisu

＜Supporter's Gloves＞

A Supporter equipment that was designed to handle the Monster's corpse. Throwaway after use.

Protects the skin against strong acids from corrosion. There is also resistance to abnormal effects.

There are many different colors. Lili's favorite color is brown.

ステイタス

Lv. 1

力：I 42　耐久：I 42　器用：H 143　敏捷：G 285　魔力：F 317

《魔法》

【シンダー・エラ】

- 変身魔法。
- 変身像は詠唱時のイメージ依存。
  具体性欠如の際は失敗（ファンブル）。
- 模倣推奨。
- 詠唱式【貴方の刻印（とず）は私のもの。
  私の刻印（とず）は私のもの】
- 解呪式【響く十二時のお告げ】

《スキル》

【縁下力持（アーテル・アシスト）】

- 一定以上の装備過重時における補正。
- 能力補正は重量に比例。

≪リトル・バリスタ≫

- 【ゴブニュ・ファミリア】作。ホビットを始めとした小人専用装備。
- サイズに似合わない高威力が売り。ボルト式弾装により連射も手軽。
  ただし射程に難あり。
- 別売りの矢によって破壊力および飛距離は変動。

Status

Lv. 1

Strength : **I 42**

Endurance : **I 42**

Dexterity : **H 143**

Agility : **G 285**

Magic : **F 317**

＜Magic＞

[Cinder Ella]

□ Transformation Magic

□ The transformation target is based on the imagination when chanting.

□ When it lacks specificity, it will end in failure.

□ Recommended for imitation.

□ Chant Text [Your engraving belongs to me. My engravings still belongs to me]

□ Release Incantation Text [Echo is the Signal at Midnight]

＜Skill＞

[Unsung Hero]

□ Activated when the weight of equipment exceeded a certain limit.

□ Status increase and weight is proportional.

＜Little Ballista＞

□ ＜Goibniu's Familia＞'s creation. Equipment designed specifically for the Hobbit race.

□ The selling point is that it has high destructive power despite its small size.

By allowing manual loading, it can easily fire out continuously. Only that the range is slight short.

□ With the arrows that are sold separately, it can change the destructive power and flight distance.

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